

THE
MERCER CHRONICLE

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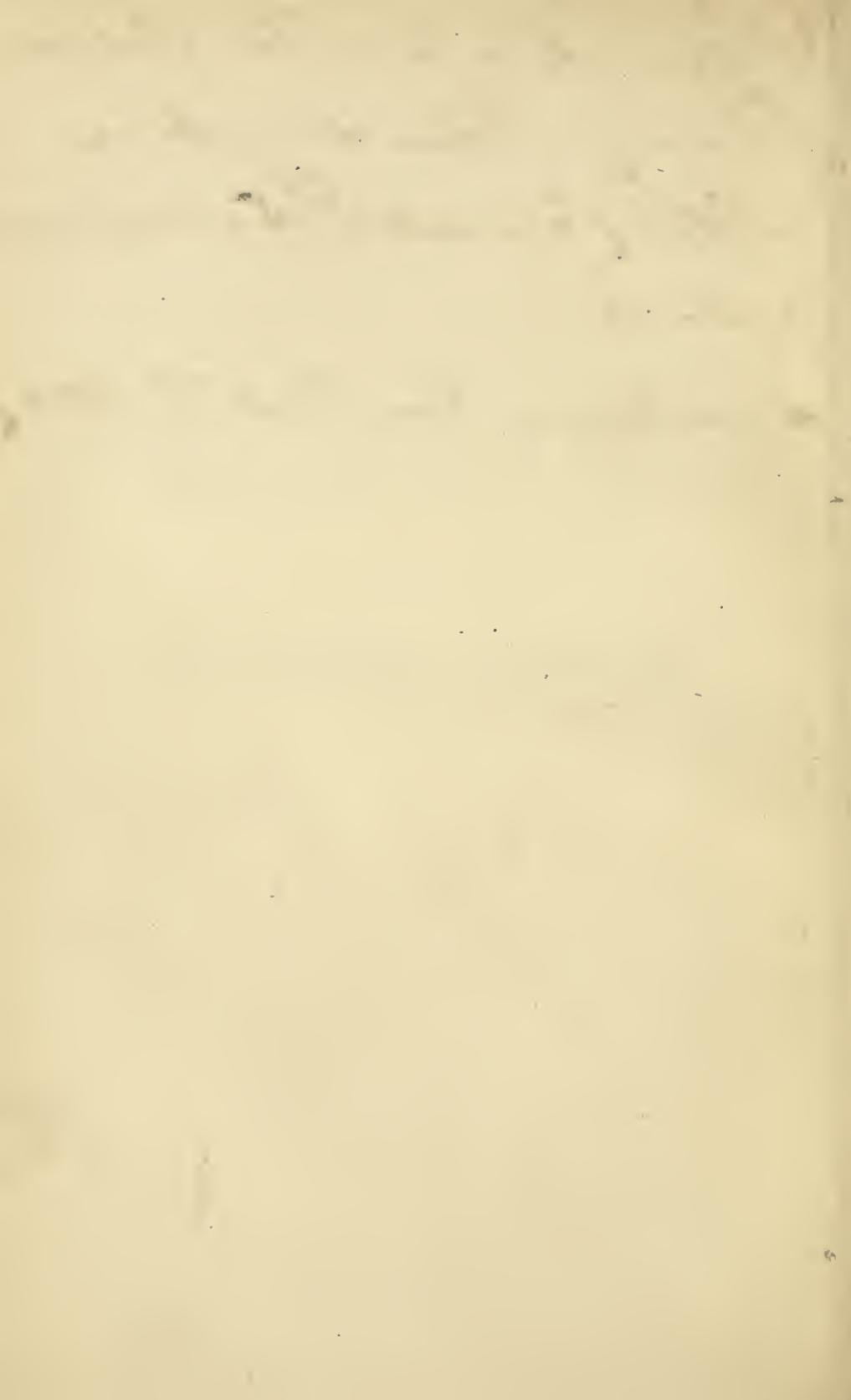


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THE

MERCER CHRONICLE.



THE
MERCER CHRONICLE.
BY
AN IRISH SENNACHY.

"In this country there is happily no conventional barrier raised against the admission of a man of the people into the ranks of the aristocracy. Industry and good conduct, favoured by PROVIDENCE, in the acquisition of wealth, may raise a poor man to a place among the rich landed gentry of the country, and another generation may see him not only in the *House of Lords*, but allied by blood to the highest families of the land. Therefore it is the true interest of the people to maintain those social and political institutions which are thus liberal towards them."—*Vicissitudes of Families*, Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King of Arms, 1st series, p. 44. London: Longman, Green, Longman, and Co., Paternoster Row. 1861.

"Most people appear to be content with mere traditionalary details of their lineages, without being at the pains to authenticate them by reference to proper records or regular genealogical authorities."—ANDERSON on *Genealogy and Surnames*, p. 5. Edinburgh: Wm. Ritchie, 16, Elder Street.

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DEDICATED TO SIR CHARLES BLUNT, BART., &c.

Farm Lodge, near Lurgan, Nov. 15, 1865.

SIR CHARLES,—

In dedicating this Family Epitome to you, which was suggested, and indeed in part called for, by the Scotch "Chronicle," I would disclaim any intention of making you responsible for its statements.

A feeling of gratitude for that antiquarian research displayed by you, and a portion of which you have expended in elucidating many details of our "Family History," first led me to think of some attempt which should exhibit that feeling ; and yet, when I think that you are in part descended from the same old stock, it may be thought that in your own person I am endeavouring to compass the reflection of a compliment.

You, I feel, will not confound my religious and political principles ; and though as an Unitarian Christian I am *zealous* for my God, I am still loyal to my Queen, and *firmly* attached to that old order of things under which we have so long flourished as a family : while for ages my ancestors have been brought up in the Church of England, I am but a Reformer, that the Church of Britain may flourish on a basis more "BROAD," and that while a "*Reformed Liturgy*" enables us to meet in the same church for the common worship of Almighty God, we may yet on minor points of creed or discipline agree to differ.

I am, my dear Sir Charles,
Yours very obediently,
THE "IRISH SENNACHY."

ADVERTISEMENT.

THIS work, which possibly may be considered in some respects original, should the confidence of the family of Mercer be secured, will only be preparatory to a far larger treatise. But the various branches of the family must assist by furnishing each one his own genealogical data—his father, grandfather, and so on, the place or places of residence of the family, and, above all, correct family tradition. The writer, who is prepared on these conditions to take any amount of trouble, feels assured that, being in possession of all the threads of the narrative, he will be able to furnish a work useful to the family, and illustrating not merely its history, but incidentally that of the nation. The History of the Jews is but that of one great family, which was to exemplify and preserve the great doctrine of the Unity of the Deity ; and this idea once planted, then the secondary idea of *national* brotherhood has caused the Jews to *hold together* ; hence the secret of their great success in the world, but particularly in Prussia and England.

Christ came but to extend the idea—One God, our Heavenly Father, and a human brotherhood, which causes me to give the right hand of fellowship even to my enemy ; hence eventually all mankind will be called by his name. I have seen several family histories ; but have noticed that a great object was to penetrate the dark night of antiquity, like the Athenians, who wore golden grasshoppers in their hair to prove that they sprang from the earth. This will not be my object. Again, in order to get up a sept in Scotland, we have heard of oatmeal being served out to those who bore the name, or wore the tartan. But this may be, and probably is, a *sarcasm* emanating from the *proud* individualism of the Southron. No ; the history of the Mercers is that of a clan who have always marched in the van of civilization and of *Conservative* progress, and I trust will always remain firmly united.

THE MERCER CHRONICLE.

INTRODUCTION.

THE old Scottish name of Mercer is, in French, *Le Mercier*. In Latin it is *Mercator*, and in that form it became distinguished in the Low Countries, being borne by the celebrated mathematician and geographer, Gerard Mercator, inventor of the famous method of projection which is known by his name. Born in the Netherlands in 1512, he died in 1594.

The name of Mercer¹ is a very ancient one in Scotland and England, and in Ireland there was a William Mercer, Bishop of Connor, in 1353-75. The name appears to have been originally assumed by individuals engaged extensively with ships of their own in the merchant trade with the Continent. In 1214, Serle Mercer, a wealthy merchant, was for eight weeks Mayor of London. He was again elected in 1217, and, outdoing Whittington, retained his office from 1218 to 1222. He was one of the worthy citizens who completed, in 1209, the building of the first stone bridge across the Thames—the famous London Bridge.

Two families of the name have been settled in Scotland from a very early period—the Mercers of Innerpeffry, in Strathern, and those of Aldie, in Perthshire. The latter were closely connected with the city of Perth, and an inscription in the family vault of the Mercers', in the church of St. John there, records that one of them, John Mercer, died in 1280.

¹ The name was *Le Mercier*; but in memoranda of charters, I have seen *Le Mercer*, *Mercer*, and even *Marser*, though no doubt of the identity of the family could *then* exist.—I. S.

According to local and family tradition, this vault was a royal grant to the family, in consideration of their having given to one of the Scottish kings the mills of Perth, which belonged to them. A possessor of a mill was a man of some weight and honour in those days, and many charters are extant in which the disposition of mills with lands and heritages, as valuable property, is expressly mentioned. Referring to the antiquity of the house of Mercer, a local rhyme says:—

“ So sicker 'tis as anything on earth,
The Mercers aye are older than old Perth.”

The mills of Perth appear to have been near the Inches of Perth, which derive their name from being insulated by the river Tay—*inch* in the Gaelic being island, and these Inches still extend along its margin. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the church of St. John at Perth was both magnificent² and extensive, and in those times, the grant of a vault in such a sacred and imposing edifice was considered a royal gift indeed; hence another rhyme, which somewhat wittily says:—

“ Folk say the Mercers tried the town to cheat,
When for two Inches they did win six feet.”

The founder of the baronial family of Aldie was John Mercer, who, about 1340, was an opulent merchant burgess of Perth, then the metropolis of Scotland. He was provost of that city in 1357, 1369, and 1374, and several times commissioner for the burgh of Perth to the Scottish Estates of Parliament; also frequently ambassador to England, France, and Holland. He had a great share in the negotiations in regard to the ransom of King David II., then a prisoner in England, and was held in high estimation by Charles V., surnamed the wise King of France. In Scotland, he was receiver of the King's moneys, during the vacancy of the office of chamberlain in 1376-77. His son Andrew was employed

² A very unworthy economy has divided this cathedral into three (!) churches. A very liberal spirit at Glasgow has restored and beautified a cathedral.—I. S.

in a similar capacity. The representative of the house of Aldie is Margaret, Baroness Nairn and Keith, and Countess de Flahault in France, born in 1788, married in 1817 to the Count de Flahault de la Billarderie.

The armorial bearings of the family of Mercer are, or, on a fesse between three cross pâtées in chief, gules and a star in base, azure three bezants of the first. Motto, “*Crux Christi nostra corona.*” Crest, the head and neck of a stork, holding in its beak a water-serpent, with the motto, “*Ye grit poul,*” that is, “the sea.” The supporters are two savages with clubs.

The stork in heraldry represents filial piety, and the serpent was the emblem of success. Both these refer to the successful attack made in 1377 by Sir Andrew Mercer, the Scottish Admiral, on the English fleet at Scarborough. His father, John Mercer, above mentioned, had been wrecked in 1376, on the coast of Northumberland, and had been seized and imprisoned in Scarborough Castle. On the representation of William, Earl of Douglas, he was released, after some months' imprisonment. To avenge the indignity offered to his father by this unjustifiable seizure, Sir Andrew made an expedition to the east coast of England, with a squadron of Scottish, French and Spanish ships, and carried off several vessels from under the very walls of Scarborough. He afterwards became formidable, and by his success greatly interrupted the English commerce. John Philpot, a citizen and alderman of London, took it upon himself to fit out a squadron at his own expense, and made Mercer prisoner. For this interference he narrowly escaped being punished by the English king's council, and in contempt of him, “Mercer was set at liberty without ransom, and received a safe conduct, dated January 1, 1378, to return with four horsemen in his company to Scotland.”³

The above account of John Mercer and John Philpot, will

³ “Genealogy and Surnames,” by William Anderson. Edinburgh: William Ritchie, 16, Elder Street, 1865, pp. 59—61.

be found correct on reference to the English Chronicle by Walsingham. The English were the *aggressors*; though the facts have been rather differently narrated in the “Boy’s Own Magazine,”⁴ by a writer named Davenant. As regards the name of “Mercer,” it is by no means a common one in England, like that of Smith or Smyth, Sadler, Glover and Hawker. England was always a warlike country, and when men first took *surnames*⁵ from land, trades, or other accidents, there were smiths, saddlers and glovers in almost every town or village of England; hence the frequency of those names. But *silks*,⁶ which were *entirely an article of the greatest luxury*, and sold by the merchants or mercers, from beyond the sea, from the Levant, from Lombardy and from Flanders, were confined to the use of the high noblesse, and carried by *hawkers* from castle to castle, much in the same manner as at the present day the *box-wullahs*, or hawkers in India, travel from bungalow to bungalow⁷ of the officers and civilians, and from station to station.⁸

That the case might have been slightly different in London, in a city *whose merchants were princes*, we admit; and hence

⁴ The Boy’s Own Magazine, 11th year, vol. v. No. 30.

⁵ To distinguish one man from another.

⁶ The dress or livery of the Mercers (which, it has been stated, had, in common with that of the other companies, become fixed about the reign of Charles I.) varied in some slight particulars from the rest: it seems to show their connection with the *silk trade*. In the printed pageants of all the companies, *except the Mercers*, the masters and wardens are described as leading their several processions in gowns, “fac’d with *foins*, with their hoods;” and were succeeded by the livery, in gowns “fac’d with *budge*, with their hoods.” In the procession of the Mercers, however, we find the livery, instead of *budge*, wearing their gowns “fac’d with *satin*.” Taubman’s “London Yearly Jubilee,” at the inauguration as mayor of Sir John Peake, mercer, 1686, thus gives the order of their “morning procession,” which is said to “have usually set out from Mercers’ Hall about 8 o’clock.”—HERBERT’s *Hist. of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of London*.

⁷ Bungalow, native word for house or cottage of Europeans.

⁸ Station or *cantonment* of troops; but hardly chosen or *maintained* with the judgment of Rome, whose *chesters* or *camps* exhibit knowledge of military topography, as witness Chester, Rochester, Porchester.

the above statements, even though they may seem to militate with the extracts below given from that learned work, entitled “The History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of London,” by William Herbert, London, 1837.

Countries favoured by commerce are always in advance as regards a certain amount of civilization; hence, when in England baron waged war on baron, the Italian republics, particularly Pisa, Genoa, and Venice in the South, and the Netherlands in the North of Europe, preserving the *civilization*, as the monasteries did the religion and learning of Rome, were *rustling in silk*, and had their *Mercatori* and *Mercers*⁹ when the Barons were content with saddlers to mount, and smiths to arm them! It required the eagle glance of an Edward the Third, generally thought only the most warlike of England's kings, to note the difference; he encouraged the Flemings; and the citizens of Bristol have shown their *discernment* by placing statues to his memory in their Guildhall and elsewhere.

But Scotland had ages before encouraged the Flemings, and had had intimate relations with France; hence the name “Mercer” as a family dominates in Scotland, whence it spread to the North of Ireland, and again on the accession of James the First to the throne of England, to the North of Ireland, and to England. So early as A.D. 1303, we have the name of Robert le Mercer, who farmed the Church of St. Nicholas; as see “The History and Antiquities of the County and Town of Carrickfergus.” Samuel McSkimin, Belfast, A.D. 1832, page 153.¹⁰ In the same work, p. 161, it appears that in 1340 William Mercer was Constable of the Castle.

⁹ This I consider as a word anciently designating a *Merchant*; hence the phrase *Mercers* and shopkeepers as we find in Herbert: this idea is borne out by the enterprising Mr. Rabbits, *shoe-merchant* of London, who on every omnibus advertises his wares, and at his factory, near the “Elephant and Castle,” styles himself a *shoe-mercer*, *i.e.* a shoe-merchant, he not being a *petty* shopkeeper, but having establishments in all parts of London.

¹⁰ The passage runs thus:—

“John Coutouk, rector, let off this church for three years to Robert le

But that the name of Mercer occurs in Kent, *otherwise* than as derived from Scotland, is a fact which we think proved not only from the circumstances recorded of that Mercer, Lord Mayor of London, who superintended the construction of the first London Bridge, and of another Elias Mercer who represented, we believe (as we only quote from memory) Canterbury in Parliament; at all events, his name appears in the roll of Members of Parliament in Hasted's "History of Kent," ages before the accession of James. These Kentish Mercers must hunt up their own early history, though we believe them to have been a branch of the Flemish Merciers first settled in Kent, and who in the city of Canterbury have named the street leading to the Cathedral as *La Mercerie*; in London also, according to Herbert, p. 251.

"Strype mentions, amongst the eminent *Mercers* living in the *MERCERY*, Cheapside, about the reign of Henry VIII.," one "John Hare;" and so on. Now here we contend that Cheapside was hardly devoted to the sale of "*small wares*" (see Herbert, p. 230); in fact, we believe the Mercery to have been devoted to the purposes of the Mercers or *silk merchants*; but that previous to the reign of Edward III., *the commerce, and by consequence Mercantile and Royal Navies of England*, as is proved by John Philpot being obliged to raise a fleet, *being far behind that of the Italian cities, and of the Netherlands, or of the Hanseatic league, the sale of silk was not in such vogue among the English*; hence the confusion as to the meaning of the term *Mercer* in England, long after it had been assumed as a *sur-name*, and had, to a certain extent, become common on the Continent.

"The antiquity of the Mercers as a metropolitan guild may be traced as far back at least as to 1172, the society being a Mercer, at the annual rent of 45 marks. In this indenture, which is dated at Dublin, Mercer is bound to complete the repairs of the chancel, as he had begun it, and to pay *PAPAL* tythes and all other charges.—Records, Rolls Office, Dublin." This Robert le Mercer was from Perth, but left ages before the ancestors of the Mercers late of "Hill Hall Court," and of the present Mercers of "Farm Lodge."—I. S.

few years afterwards named as patrons of one of the great London charities. Its remote origin is also to be inferred from Robert Searle, Mercer,* being mayor as early as 1214. The first positive mention of them, however, as such, is not till 1296, when the *company of Merchant Adventurers are stated to have arisen out of “the Guild of Mercers of the City of London,”* being a sort of English merchants who first began to attempt the establishment of a woollen manufacture in England, towards the close of King Edward the First's reign, when they obtained privileges from John, Duke of Brabant, and stapled themselves at Antwerp, joining in society with them all the other English merchants resorting thither. “This is the account,” says Anderson, “which the Merchant Adventurers give of their origin in 1638, to the grand committee for trade of the House of Commons, on their defence against the accusations of the separate traders then called by that company ‘interlopers.’” The calendars of the Inquisitions, ad quod Damnum, 14 Edward II. (1321), again mention the Fraternity of Mercers as possessing a rent charge in St. Mary Colechurch parish, which will be presently noticed. In 1406, the branch of this trade styled Merchant Adventurers in their charter granted by Henry IV., are called the “Brothers of St. Thomas à Becket,” a prelate, it will be seen, whose family was particularly connected with the early history of the Mercers, and which circumstance carries their origin as one of the trading guilds nearly as far back as the Conquest. The Mercer's first station in the reign of Henry II. was in that part of the Warda Fori or Chepe where Mercers' Hall now stands, and in the above Colechurch parish, but they removed soon afterwards higher up on the south side of Cheapside, between Bow Church and Friday Street, to which they gave the name of the *Mercery.*”¹¹

“The Mercers may be presumed to have most importantly

* Serle Mercer was his name; and the text of Herbert is here wrong.—See “Hist. of London,” by John Northouck, London, 1773, in the Guildhall Library, p. 889; as Sheriff his name is spelled *Mercier*.

¹¹ Herbert's History, &c., pp. 231-2.

extended their commerce before the reign of Edward III., from the contention which had then grown up between them and the Lombard merchants. An instance of this animosity occurred in 1351, when a violent assault was committed on Francisco Bochel and other Lombards by the Mercers of the Old Jewry. The king issued his warrant on this occasion to the Mayor (John Lovekym), commanding him to hold an inquest, and in the mean time to seize and imprison the offenders in the Tower. In the return the jurors state the outrage to have happened on the Midsummer-day of that year, when they found that 'one Henry Forester, mercer, Thomas de Waldon, mercer, and Thomas Meleward, mercers, had in the Old Jewry, in the ward of Coleman Strate, with force and arms and of their malice aforethought, violently assaulted Francisco Bochel and Reynard Flanny, Lombards, against the king's peace, and that one Richard Phelip, mercer, was abetting and assisting, and conclude that they had been unable to find any just cause for such outrage.'¹²

"The sumptuary Act, 37 Edward III., proves the Mercers to have sold in that reign woollen cloth, but no silks. It ordains the clothiers shall make suitable quantities of cloth of the various prices which are specified, and that Mercers and shopkeepers in town and cities 'shall keep due sortment thereof, so that laws be duly observed.' In the reign of Henry VI. the Mercers had become extensive dealers in silks and velvets, and had resigned their trade in the smaller articles of dress to the haberdashers, who appear from the description in 'London Lickpenny' to have kept market in the adjoining stalls or standings:—

"Then to the Chepe I began me drawne,
Where mutch people I sawe for to stand,
One ofred me velvett, sylke, and lawne,
An other he taketh me by the haunde,
Here is Parys thread the fynest in the launde."

"It is difficult to say whether the Mercers had at this time become themselves importers of the silks they sold, whether

¹² Herbert's History, &c., p. 233.

they were brought over by the Lombard merchants, or whether they were fabricated by the London silkwomen ; but it is certain that for a considerable time before, the Mercers' Company, in consequence of the adoption of a distinct line of traffic by those called Merchant Adventurers, had become a mixed body of merchants and shopkeepers. This is alluded to in the incorporation charter, which states—‘ the impoverishment of several men of the mystery often by misfortunes of the sea,’ and the wish of the fraternity to make some provision for such, to be the reason of the king’s grant ; and the fact further appears in their many eminent members before and after that period, who, though called Mercers, are well known to have been merchants.”¹³

“ Taubman, in his ‘Pageant of London’s Jubilee,’ 1686, attempts ingeniously enough, in his address to the Mercers, to account for their ranking as the first company, and that they adopted as such the Virgin for their conuzance. ‘ As London has the precedence of all other cities in England, so have you the priority of all the companies of London, being the first that was founded a society in the reign of King Richard the Second. ’ Twas then as an emblem of antiquity, having obtained the maidenhead of all charters and corporations, you were endowed with that honourable hieroglyphic of primitive innocence, the Virgin for your coat, to whose magnificent state in your triumphal chariot you have this year so highly contributed.’ Unfortunately, the poet’s compliment, like most similar ebullitions of fancy, wants authority. The Mercers, we have seen, were not the first incorporated company, though they are at present first in rank, for the goldsmiths, merchant tailors and skinners, were as fully incorporated long before them. Elkanah Settle, on the inauguration as mayor of Sir William Gore in 1701, more authentically comments on the company’s ancient union of mercer and merchant. ‘ As you precede the whole city in honour, so you lead in mag-

¹³ Herbert’s History, pp. 231-2.

nificence, the expense and glory of one single virgin chariot, of the Honourable Company of Mercers, far exceeding the whole charge and grandeur of any common entertainment, from other foundations on the like public occasion. But this costly piece of state, so peculiarly your own, is in a high manner owing to the generous veins that chiefly compose your society—a society that prides itself in desert than crowds, whilst with a peculiar caution rarely practised in any city roofs but your own, *you carefully avoid the miscellaneous conflux of all manner of professions*,* that generally form the other companies, and more honourably keep up the quality of your members to their title, whilst the Mercer and merchant, those most eminent figures in commerce and trade, make up the chief body of your constitution.' He adds, 'The short triumph of a day is, however, the least of your honour. You have raised yourselves more lasting monuments, to aggrandize the renown of the Mercers; witness not only your several foundations of charity, but of literature too. The famous school of St. Paul's is a pile that sufficiently records your praise. Nor does that magnificent nursery of infant students alone resound your fame, a Mercer's chapel is a generous alma mater even to the riper race of learned heads, viz., in those numerous ecclesiastical donations, all in your own disposal, that even piety and religion come supplicants to your gates, whilst no less than the Church itself stands a debtor to your bounty and patronage.' It has been noticed as a curious singularity, that in the Mercers' Company there is scarcely a single mercer at the present day. Their mercantile character they still keep up, many of them being eminent merchants as they were anciently, and perhaps this may account for the fact of their having so many lord mayors of this company."¹⁴

* Might not this caution even now hold good? See also in this connection "London was a noble city," &c., &c., p. 20. "Hist. of London," John Northouck, London, 1773. See also pp. 75 and 95 as to "commerce."

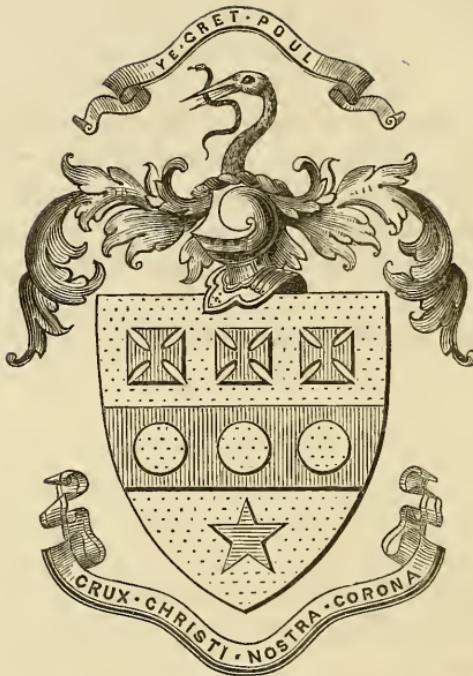
¹⁴ Herbert's History, pp. 240-1.

“ This is the first of all the 12 companies, taking place of all others, and are very numerous and rich; they take no quarterage of those made free thereof, and public feasts are at the charge of the whole society. I do not find that they are limited to any number of apprentices. Their arms are gules, a demy virgin, with her hair dishevelled, crowned, issuing out and within an orb of clouds, all proper. This company is patronized by the blessed Virgin, and of it there have been several kings, princes, and nobility, and 98 lord mayors.” Hall, Cheapside.¹⁵

In summing up the above statements, we venture to state that the term MERCER is the more ancient, the term *Merchant* of later origin; which latter, being Norman-English, has supplanted the older term, the meaning of which, however, is well preserved *even* in Herbert, whose facts and reasonings would seem to militate. “ *Mercers and shop-keepers*,” quotes he; “ many eminent members,” he states, “ who, though called *Mercers*, are well known to have been *MERCHANTS*.” The term *mercer*, we think, comes from the Netherlands, that of *merchant* from France, and being the language of the dominant race in England, has supplanted the term *mercer*, anciently used in England, still more so in Scotland. To revert to antiquity. *Mex* means, a price, or rather equivalent; *mercis*, of a price; *mercium*, prices of things sold or bartered, *i.e.*, *merceries*, or, as now called, merchandise. Thus we find Tacitus, in speaking of the ancient Germans, saying:—“ *Interiores simplicius et antiquius permutatione mercium utuntur.*”—*Germania*, vol. iv. Valpy, Londini, 1812. In French we have *ouvrage*, a work; *ouvrier*, a workman. In this word *mercium*, mercery, or merchandise, drop the Latin termination, adding *er*, and you have *mercier*, English, Mercer, the dealer in merchandise.

¹⁵ Herbert’s History, p. 226.

¹⁶ See also remarks in “Herbert’s Hist.” at p. 231, 302, 303, and 480 in the volumes presented to the “Linen Hall Library,” Belfast, by Colonel E. S. Mercer, which prove the general origin and after division into special callings of commercial enterprize.



The Arms of the Family of "Mercer."

On MERCER'S scutcheon, in a field of gold,
Three crosses-patée gules in chief behold ;
In base an azure star ; a fesse gules too,
Charged with three bezants, glittering to view :
"Crux Christi nostra"—graven on the scroll—
"Corona" forms the legend 'neath the whole.
In gold and bezants the great wealth we trace
Of him who held the High Thesaurer's place ;
By crosses-patée, three in chief, 'tis meant
To designate from BARCLAY the descent
In MURRAY's silver star, to azure turned,
The TULLYBARDINE lineage is discerned :
The fesse—of ANDREW (first of Scotland's three)—
The baldric marks of naval chieftainrie ;
The crest—a stork's head couped—in beak maintains
A water-serpent writhing in death's pains,
The stork, with heralds, filial love designs,
The snake success with victory combines ;
While our ancestral slogan—"Ye Gret Pule,"—
Of Scarborough's capture tells, and England's duele.
Then, MERCERS, bear ye bravely—do no shame,
Nor blot the scutcheon of our ancient name ;
For "sycker 'tis as onie thing on erthe,"
"The MERCERS aye are aulder than auld Pearlh."
Strive, sternly strive, till called to lay life down,
Through GOD'S good grace, to make

CHRIST'S CROSS OUR CROWN.

THE MERCER CHRONICLE.

FRIEND Græme Reid Mercer, Laird from Glentulchan,
Of all the Mercers, who near Perth remain,
Thee worthy do I deem to uphold our race ;
When they who have the *land*, have not the grace ;
But sink the *name* : they think the parchment trace
May still be read with an unblushing face !

* * * * *

But thou the tangled maze do'st well unveil,
And count the ships, with colours false which sail !
Thy views *unselfish*, for now, nought from thee,
Gives hope to inherit from thine honesty.
Thy hospitality the strangers praise,
Whilst thou art learned in the former days.
“ *Te conjux solam*,” et “ *te canebo* : ”¹
Thy honor, and thy love do plainly show.
While Dons elsewhere, and *Saints* at Islington,
Of Mussulmen serenely wear the gown ;
And if “ *Stamboul* ”² be mentioned in “ *the House* ”
Does all their hate of polygamy rouse !

¹ This Latin sentence is from my friend Graham Reid Mercer, and is engraved on a very elegant present. The appropriateness of such a sentiment, in an age like the present, will readily be recognized, and I could not refrain from plagiarism. The old form of the Latin future tense is to suit a rhyme. This gentleman is of Gorthy, and married to a niece of the Marquis of Dalhousie.

² The Eastern name for Constantinople.

*Outside “the House” great David is their man ;
Nor cling to precept ; but the example scan !
“Against Thee, Thee only”³ they think, may day by day,
Be uttered vainly while they vainly pray !*

* * * * *

*That thou be right our clan to dearly prize,
Excuse your friend if now I plagiarize.
They for a *People’s Park*⁴ did gladly pay,
When cant was not the order of the day !*

* * * * *

*“On Mercer’s scutcheon, in a field of gold”⁵
Two crosses pâttée gules in chief behold ;
A third in base, while in a fesse gules too,
Three gleaming bezants are displayed to view ;
“*Crux Christi nostra corona*” the scroll
Bears as a motto, underneath the whole.
By the red cross the pilgrim knight is known,
While by the bezants⁶ ample wealth is shown.
From these we learn that when King Louis led
His gallant warriors their heart’s blood to shed
In heathen lands—the blessed cross to plant
Where the vile crescent then reigned dominant,
Brave Scotia sent her warlike sons to aid
The saintly monarch in this eighth crusade :*

³ Psalm li. 4.—*I. S.*

⁴ The North and South Inches of Perth, which form two pleasant parks for the people, and which were once the property of “the Mercer family.”—*I. S.*

⁵ From the “Mercer Chronicle,” by Seannachie, A. D. 1859. This pamphlet seems to have been suggested by “the book printed in 1831 by the Maitland Club, called ‘Mercer’s Chronicle,’ compiled by John Mercer, Town Clerk of Perth, who flourished during the middle of the 17th century, and who purchased Potterhill, near Perth, ‘from Mr. James Mercer, only son of William Mercer, son and heir of the late Andrew Mercer, Burgess, of Perth, on 15th May, 1639.’”—*I. S.*

⁶ We in Ireland have a different tradition of the *Bezants*, which are a Byzantine coin, acquired in great numbers by our *Flemish* ancestors in their intercourse with the East.—*I. S.*

Carrick and *Athole*,⁷ with a glorious band
 Of northern nobles, left their native land—
 The martial throng of devotees to swell,
 And prove their prowess on the infidel.
 Among these heroes none had ampler store
 Of wealth than he who first this blazon bore,
 Sir Lawrence Mercer,⁸ chieftain of the race,
 Did then the office of “ *Thesaurer*”⁹ grace,
 Of lineage ancient as the noble Tay,
 Our chronicles and old traditions say—
 “ *For sicker 'tis as anything on earth*,
 The Mercers aye are older than old Perth :”—
 Old Perth, that when King William ruled the realm,
 Almond and Tay combined to overwhelm,¹⁰
 And to the German sea indignant hurled
 All traces of the conquerors of the world,
 At Orred and Bertha, where the twain
 Unite their streams to sweep towards the main.
 Soon after this to Perth the Mercers gave
 The Inches, and acquired their vaulted grave ;
 Whence rose—“ *The Mercers tried the town to cheat*,
When for twa inches they obtained six feet.”¹¹

⁷ The connection of the Mercers with the Athole family, themselves also of Flemish origin, will be hereafter shown.

⁸ “ A.D. 1270.”

⁹ “ Treasurer.”

¹⁰ “ A.D. 1210,” during a great flood.

¹¹ “ Under the old structure” (the Perth Cathedral), the Mercers of Aldie have a sepulchral vault, now covered by the street, but still having access from the interior ; and it is the local tradition, that many centuries ago, this vault was obtained by the gift to the city of the North and South Inches, hence the rhyme :—

‘ Some say the Mercers tried the town to cheat,
 When for two Inches they did get six feet.’

See “ A Ramble in the Streets of Perth,” published by James B. Clarke, bookseller, 39, St. John’s Street, and edited, we believe, by a very clever antiquary of this ancient city. See Appendix A.

They also on their native town, 'tis said
 Conferred three mills to grind the city bread ;
 Some blundering heralds to note this we find,
 For the cross pâtée, gules, place the mill-rhynd.
 In later times, worm-eaten tomes relate,
 This wealthy race did service to the State.
 When David Bruce was seized at Neville's Cross,
 All Scotsmen felt and mourned the common loss ;
 The States at once unanimous decree
 A royal ransom their loved Prince to free.
 One hundred thousand merks of Scottish gold,
 Within ten years were granted, we are told ;
 Of this, ten thousand merks were yearly paid,
 And carefully to London were conveyed,
 By Perth's leal son, John Mercer, who was then,
 Of Scotland's capital chief citizen ;
 But not to Perth alone confined his fame,
 For throughout Europe was renowned his name ;
 And numerous "safe conducts"¹² can be shown,
 To prove that he at foreign courts was known.
 He married Ada, sister of the Lord
 Of Tullybardine,¹³ who betrayed the ford
 Across the Earn at Dupplin, and thus brought
 Defeat and death on those with Mar who fought ;
 Through her it seems his sons did Aldie heir,
 And thus the race that designation bear.
 From this time, too, the cross pâtée in base
 Did of the chief assume the centre place ;

¹² See Appendix B.

¹³ See Appendix C. See also "Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire," London, Harrison, 59, Pall Mall, bookseller to the Queen, A.D. 1860. Art. Athole ; the head of which family is Duke of Athole, and Earl of Tullibardine. When the truth and loyalty of this family and of most of the Scotch nobility, gentry, and their tenants are considered, we do not wonder at Her Majesty's frequent visits to the North.

And the Moravian azure star was borne
Within the base which it did erst adorn.
When the first Stewart over Scotland reigned,
The Mercer war-cry was in battle gained.
When Second Richard Englishmen did rule,
Then Scarborough heard a slogan—"The gret poul."
Within its walls, a venerable Scot,
Captured at sea, endured the prisoner's lot.
For wealth and wisdom, far as the sun shone,
John Mercer's name was honourably known ;
By kings and princes he was deemed their peer,
And to the heart of "Charles the Wise"¹⁴ was dear.
As home from France returning o'er the sea,
The English took him, and his argosie ;
A fettered captive, in the donjon-keep
Of Scarborough's stronghold—noisome, dark, and deep—
They chained him sorrowing ; till to free his sire
A generous ardour did the son inspire—
A sailor born, a sailor's life he spent
In strife upon the boisterous element.
Admired, loved, honoured, in the time of need
Repute and wealth his daring projects speed ;
With lavish hand he flings abroad his gold,
And draws towards him hearts as true as bold—
Each keenly anxious to lay down his life
In cheap exchange for fame, bold deeds, and strife.
From distant realms he gathers galleons stout,
And princes aid his views to carry out ;
A splendid fleet¹⁵ he rapidly equips
Of well-found Scottish, French and Spanish ships ;
With eager haste then seeks the English shore,
Resolved his father's freedom to restore.

¹⁴ Charles the Wise, King of France.

¹⁵ See the quotation from Pinkerton's "History of Scotland," vol. i. pp. 15, 17, as quoted in Appendix B. See also the text and translation from Walsingham's "History," in the same Appendix. See also Northouck's "London," p. 76, in the Guildhall Library ; London, 1773.

The setting sun had shed its parting ray
On Scarborough's silent walls and peaceful bay ;
The sea no ripple on its surface bore ;
There on earth's bosom, as from care released,
Its weary life in murmuring kisses ceased.
Gently the vessels rocked their crews untossed,
Like nurse-watched babes, their cares in slumber lost ;
Within the walls the thoughtless soldier slept ;
Bad watch the guard o'ercome with vassail kept.
Light fleecy clouds the shimmering stars obscure ;
The foe's approach, unlooked for, still is sure.
When next the sun arose, his beams to greet,
In Scarborough's bay behold a hostile fleet ;
And ere his high meridian he could reach,
In deadly strife he saw upon the beach,
The English struggling with their banded foes,
And heard the cries of battle as they rose—
“ St. George for England ! ” “ St. Denis pour la France ! ”
“ St. James ! ” “ St. Andrew ! ” “ Bonny Scots, advance ! ”
“ Hurrah for the gret Poul ! ” “ For liberty ! ”
“ We'll die, we'll die, our countryman to free ! ”
Right well they fight, those gallant English hearts
Ply their keen swords, and speed their deadly darts.
O'erpowered at length they waver, turn and fly,
To gain the shelter of the walls they try—
But all in vain ; the foemen press them sore,
And through the gates in headlong torrent pour.
The town is won ; the castle's stately pile
Arrests the stream and stays its course awhile,
Yields with a crash, then on the human spate
Impetuous, sweeping everything before,
Hurls its huge force against the donjon door,
At once 'tis shattered like a bolt-struck tree,
His chains wrenched off, again is Mercer free ;
Again the thrilling slogan rends the sky,
Hurrah for “ the gret Poul—for liberty ! ”

And ere the sun his parting ray had shed,
The sire in triumph to the fleet is led.
His path, to show him honour and respect,
With captured flags and trophies is bedecked ;
While on each side the chain-bound captives stand,
With sullen, downcast looks, a mournful band,
With sixteen English vessels ta'en in tow,
Laden with spoil, the victors homeward go ;
For fair St. Johnstone's,¹⁶ with a favouring gale,
Long ere the break of day the fleet set sail.
Smart to unfurl the sails each seaman springs,
Gaily the vessels spread their snowy wings ;
Their lordly bosoms, o'er the heaving swell
Of each advancing billow rose—and fell,
As the chafed wave with foaming crest dashed by,
And tossed their sterns in anger to the sky ;
The crunching prow th' opposing surge burst through,
In diamond stars the sparkling spray up flew,
Whitby's pale nuns and monks of Tynemouth's pile,
And cloistered recluses of Holy Isle,
Saw the swift vision as it flitted past,
Their hearts with grief and harrowing fear o'ercast ;
Trembling with terror they in haste repair
To seek relief in all-consoling prayer ;
Humbly imploring aid and grace divine,
They meekly kneel, each at the favoured shrine.
With pious reverence the sailors rude
Devoutly cross themselves—and for the good

¹⁶ Perth, where the "Mercer Arms," as appears by a guide-book entitled "A Ramble through the Streets of Perth," are still seen. "The last object to which we beg to direct attention, is a house at the junction of the Watergate with the High Street. It bears on its front a marble tablet, containing the arms of the *Mercers of Aldie*, and an inscription, 'Here stood the House of the Green.' This House of the Green was said to have stood upon the site of an old British temple, which the Romans subsequently dedicated to Mars." Perth: published by James B. Clarke, 39, St. John's Street.—I. S.

Of their poor souls, prayers, hasty though sincere,
Mutter as past the sacred fanes they steer ;
But yesternight with murderous hate inflamed,
Mark now the proud rebellious spirit tamed.
While blood fraternal bears the moist red stain,
“ *Te Deum* ” seems a mockery profane ;
Yet impious man will act the insane part
Of him who says “ there’s no God ” in his heart,
And reckless of the gore still reeking red,
Will, worse than fool, rush to the Presence dread.
The warden lone on Bamborough’s royal keep,
Sees afar off the galleys plough the deep ;
In prompt obedience to his bugle call,
The roused retainers crowd the castle wall :
Keen for stern strife, prepared with blow for blow,
With searching eye they watch the coming foe.
Near the flotilla glides, and yet more nigh,
Until they can each move on deck descry.
The tops well filled with deadly lyme-pots seem,
The huge two-handled Scottish broadswords gleam
In the fore-room ; along the sides in rows
Targes and shields are ranged, and strong cross-bows
With short stout bolts, the spear, and boarding pike,
Adapted well to seize or pierce, or strike,
With grappling irons ready at command,
While at their post the steady seamen stand.
The watchful English the attack await,
With hope of easy victory elate ;
But when with helm put up, and yards braced round,
The ships steer north, their rage exceeds all bound.
Then with defiant gestures, yell they taunts,
Derisive mockings and vain-glorious vaunts ;
From leathern lungs, with beer and brawling hoarse,
They bellow ravings rabid, rude, and coarse :
Their stronghold to attack the foe they dare,
And clouds of harmless arrows shoot in air.

No shouts responsive from the fleet are heard
 Nor mock, nor vaunt, nor insult, not a word ;
 But on a given signal from the mast
 Of each tall vessel towered as it passed
 The galling emblem—into bundles tied
 The lowly broom ¹⁷ shrub the proud vaunt supplied,
 Which said “ No English fleet can dare the breeze,”¹⁸
 “ While Scottish ships triumphant *sweep* the seas.”
 A fiendish roar of deep concentrated wrath
 Burst from the walls—while on its homeward path
 The fleet in calm contemptuous silence speeds,
 Not for one moment the rude routing heeds.
 Swiftly along the Scottish coast it steers,
 And heaven-impelled, its destination nears ;
 Till safely anchored in the Firth of Tay,
 Yet eager to set forth again, it lay.

Such are the stories and traditions old,
 Our grandsires of this Perthshire race have told.
 And not confined to Perthshire—for we see
 Them spread from Berwick ¹⁹ to the Northern Dee.

¹⁷ “ Which shows that gallant Admiral van Tromp
 A wrinkle shrewd from good John Mercer got ;
 Or otherwise, one thought, as great wits jump
 Occurred alike to Dutchman and to Scot.”

¹⁸ The *planta genista* is thought to be the *lowly* (?) emblem of the *Plantagenets*, themselves of *Northman* descent ; but we think the token, which is of Northman origin, signifies quite the reverse of humility ; and we also conclude that all schoolboys, who have felt the flagellating force of this plant, when it *reflected*, or rather *touched* their honour, will agree with us ; and will say that the idea is still preserved among the Americans the genuine descendants of those renowned Northmen, for they are always talking of a “ *whipping* ! ” while the Saxon portion of the British can only talk of a *licking* ; the descendants of the Normans in Britain being generally accustomed “ *to thrash* ” their opponents !

¹⁹ We think, from inquiries yet made, that it is questionable whether the Mercer family were not settled at Berwick before their ancestor came to Perth. Berwick was the port of the ancient and once *most powerful* kingdom of Northumberland : Edwin, king of which, built

The name in England, too, is not unknown,
 And some *stray seeds*²⁰ in Ireland have been sown,
 As gallant Captain William²¹ doth rehearse
 In most amusing, though unpolished, verse ;—
 Two of the name besides this bold dragoon
 Have through the land their rhymes and verses strewn ;
 Yet has Dunfermline²² not more grateful been
 To her poetic child than Aberdeen.²³
 For neither have appreciation shown
 Of either, by a monumental stone.
 Fife, Forfar and Kinross with Perth may claim
 To be the foster parents of the name.
 Baleif, Balhousie, Clevage, Aberdeen,
 And Melgins, each as branches we have seen ;
 But each, alas ! have long since passed away,
 And Sawline holds the chiefship at this day ;
 For Aldie, that so long defied decline,
 Exists now only in the female line.
 The branches of this name have sprung from two
 Main stems—the Mercer Roy and Mercer Dhu ;²⁴
 Which terms in Gaelic are employed to mark
 That the one race was fair, the other dark.
 Complexion, eyes, and hair of ebon hue,
 Aye stamped the Aldie line the Mercer Dhu ;

Edwin's burgh, Edwinstower, or Edinburgh ; he ruled also over great part of England.—*I. S.*

²⁰ Our italics.—*I. S.*

²¹ Brother to Capt. John Mercer of Castlerobin, near Derryaghy, Co. Antrim.

²² “Dunfermline Abbey.” A Poem. By Andrew Mercer.

²³ Major James Mercer of the 71st Highland L. I. Regiment, and of Auchnacant, whose poems, or rather a *selected* portion of them, were edited by his brother-in-law, Sylvester Douglas, Lord Glenbervie.—*I. S.*

²⁴ The “red Mercer,” and the “black Mercer.” John Mercer, of “Hill Hall Court,” Co. Down, A.D. 1718, was called Shane Bawn by the native Irish, *i.e.*, “White John,” which shows that his mother, who was a Hill, could, in some measure, influence the colour.—*I. S.*

While the “blond ardent” time cannot destroy
 Of Innerpeffry’s race, the Mercer Roy.
 What’s in a name? a rose as sweet would smell
 Called assafœtida—yet writers tell
 Our superstitious sires in days by-gone,
 Conceiving hatred to the name of John,
 Exchanged to Robert, stamped with lasting fame
 By glorious Bruce, the second Stuart’s name.
 Prænomen this by Mercers loved the least,
 Since under it each line has dwined, or ceased.
 The first to sink beneath it was Balief,²⁵
 For thus we find was christened its last chief.
 Robert, the head of Innerpeffry’s clan,²⁶
 Soon, too, to undermine his house began;
 And his successors merely seem to heir
 The territorial designation bare.
 Since Robert Murray Nairne²⁷ married Jean,
 Of Aldie they no more have Mercers been:
 In females merging, that time-honoured race
 Through Keiths and Flahaults now their lineage trace.
 The Melgins ceased in Robert to exist;
 With Robert also failed the Clavage list;
 And Robert’s the last link of Sawline’s chain,
 That branched from Aldie in Queen Mary’s reign.”²⁸

²⁵ Extinct, 1583.

²⁶ Sold their lands, 1469.

²⁷ Lord William Murray, 4th son of the Duke of Athole, married the heiress of Lord Nairne; his 2nd son, Robert Murray Nairne, married Jean, heiress of the Mercers of Aldie.—See “Burke’s Peerage,” art. NAIRNE.—I. S.

²⁸ Thus ends the Scotch Chronicle, the author of which has done well except in speaking of “stray seeds,” in which phrase appears a certain something slighting in its tendency and too much in the style of Mr. Laing; his pamphlet, entitled “Some Account of Lieut.-Colonel William Mercer, author of ‘Angliæ Speculum, or England’s Looking-glass,’ London, 1646, by David Laing, Esq., V.P.S.A., Scot.; for there is no doubt that Captain William was a remarkable man, but had too much candour for the hypocritical age he lived in; had he been a greater rogue, he had been a

* * * * *

So runs the chronicle by Scotchman writ,
 But Irishmen are wanting not in wit.²⁹
 We too of Captain William,³⁰ uncle write
 Poet, annalist, and warrior right ;
 He too the Mercer where the ladies were ;
 He speaks, whilst thou thyself the bachelors spare !

greater man ! he halted *half way* ; his candour was his own and that of his *profession*, his faults those of his age : had he remained loyal like Captain John, he had remained poor ! Those soldiers who want to see how the Commonwealth paid their troops, should read his works : no “*daily payments*” then ! In troublous times, the few clever rogues may thrive, but *the many*, honest or otherwise, will suffer ! This is proved by *the great joy manifested on the return of Charles II.*

²⁹ Except when they listen to *American Fenians*, who have disgraced the noble name so well immortalized by the learned and patriotic Dr. William Hamilton Drummond, D.D. of Dublin, in his “*Ancient Irish Minstrelsy*.”

³⁰ We have always known him only as *Captain William* ; but politics causing a disagreement, the want of intimacy between the brothers was increased by the roving disposition of Captain William, whose descendants by his “*four fyne wives*,” of course must have chiefly settled *near their mamas* ; except, indeed, the first wife and her children, who all perished in the rebellion of 1641. Captain William was *born* in Scotland, went to England when young with his father, whence his family emigrated with others from Yorkshire and Lancashire, at the instance of James I. of England, by whom was formed the plantation of Ulster ; hence is found throughout his writing the uncertainty of his *locale*, for he speaks indifferently of the three countries ; the bias was, perhaps, against Ireland :

“I lost my being in *that Irish land*,
 Where by *commission* *I had first command* ;”

which last line, however, does not prove he was *not* there, *before* he “*had command*,” and by “*being*” he means *substance—means of living*, as we all too well remember, as the feeling was in favour of Scotland, where all the high connections of the family remained. The last intelligence heard of Captain William, or as some call him Lt.-Colonel William Mercer, appears to have been at Cork, in 1669, that is, if Mr. Grenville be considered as an authority, as see “*The Moderate Causalier*” (Cavalier)

“ For in my tyme I married four fyne wives,
 For by such matches many a bad man ³¹ thrives ;
 Two maids between two widows, first and last ;
 The first three failed, but now the fourth holds fast :
 A Murray, Mervyn, Conway and a Duff,
 My lady smyles,^{31a} and sayes these wer enuffe.”

* * * * *

Nor have “ stray seeds in Ireland been sown ! ”
 Full many an oak from acorns true have grown.
 William himself was asked his heir to bring,
 To place upon his cousin’s hand the ring,
 That Mercer names in Aldie still might rest,
 Agreeably to Sir James’s ³² last bequest.³³

“or the soldier’s description of Ireland, and of the country disease,” in the Grenville Collection, British Museum ; and in London in 1682, according to David Laing, Esq., V.P.S.A., Scot., in his “Account of Lt.-Colonel William Mercer, author of *Speculum Angliae*, or England’s Looking-glass.” London, 1646, p. 18. Every soldier should read the “Moderate Causalier” to see how the Commonwealth diddled *their* soldiers ; and then paid them by *robbing* the Irish to save themselves payment of the soldiers’ dues !!!

³¹ It need hardly be said that a jury of four ladies gave a verdict affirming that he said he was bad to suit his verse, when he suited them so well !—*Ibid.*, p. 12.

^{31a} Mrs. Henry Mercer (an Anstruther) wittily remarked, “My lady” was the living wife !

³² *Ibid.*, page 13. “It further appears from the reported case of an action in the Court of Session, Lt.-Colonel William Mercer against the widow Lady Aldie, that the suitor would be required not only to assume the name of Mercer, but be of sufficient means to pay off the debts and portions of the family ; and as it was alleged there was no one of the name in Scotland of sufficient means to perform this condition, the dowager sent a natural son of her late husband (Sir James Mercer of Aldie, Knight Baronet) to Ireland, to invite the Colonel, being near of kin, to contract an alliance with his eldest son.

³³ “Sir James Mercer, Bart., and one of His Majesty’s ordinary gentlemen ushers, died in 1671. A few years previously he executed a deed of tailzie and provisions by which his estates, without division, failing heirs male, were settled on his eldest daughter, *the said heirs female successive in all times thereafter, being obliged to marry a gentleman of the surname of Mercer, or one of another surname who should take that of Mercer, they and their heirs always using the surname and arms of Mercer.* This is stated at full length in the Act of ratification in favour

We are pleased as *leal* our Father John ³⁴ to sing,
 When for a mark the Scots could sell their King ; ³⁵
 Not the true gentry of the Scotian realm ;
 But covenanting rebels at the helm.
 Of Nicholas ³⁶ as loyal we boast not ;
 Full well he earned whatever he had got !
 For when Cromwell did hem Blackwater town,
 And he himself, on scaling-ladder found,
 Nicholas his arm did press, allow me, SIR,
 Myself within the rebel walls to stir ;
 Its streets with blood "*malignant*" cause to flow, ³⁷
 And blast the hopes of royalists at a blow !
 E'en in devoted William nought "*stray*" we find,
 But that he lacked at need a loyal mind ! ³⁸

of Mrs. Grissell Mercer, Lady Aldie, of the lands and barony of Mickleour, 6th Sept., 1681 (Acts Parl. Scot. vol. viii. p. 330), printed in the Acts of the Parliament of Charles II."—Ibid., pp. 12, 13.

³⁴ John, brother of Captain William, was also a Captain in the Army, and contemporary of Arthur Hill of Hillsborough (see art. "Downshire," Burke's Peerage), with whom he served in the Royal Army, as related to me by the late Colonel Edward Smyth Mercer. Captain William dedicates a sonnet to his elder brother, Captain John (see *Speculum Angliae*).

³⁵ See every History of England. The independent rebels of England despised while they paid for the dirty deed !

³⁶ His descendants in one line have dwindled down to small farmers, but who, nevertheless, have some old traditions ; one of them as mentioned at note 37. They assert Nicholas to have been a brother of Captain William—a claim allowed by Sir Wm. Betham.

³⁷ The substance of this was told the writer twenty years back, when he was collecting memoranda of the other branches of his family.

³⁸ The reproach on this score can easily be traced in the sonnet of Captain William, dedicated to Captain John Mercer, the former writing as plainly as the time (1645) would allow one of Essex's party to do without compromising the personal security of his brother John, who could not with equal facility change over to the Government which chanced to be uppermost ! The position of a Royalist in Ireland, in those days, was most painful ; his loyalty to his sovereign, his country, and his faith, were compromised ; while Irish Romans and Rebels were murdering fellow-subjects simply because they were *English* ! for they did not at first include the Scotch in their proscriptions ; no wonder that Colonel Hill found it difficult to act, and had to be included in the number of those who received a general pardon from the King !

*“ Shall we who would not let the Lion tear,
Be hugged to death by Independent bear ? ”*³⁹

These words once uttered made e'en Cromwell sigh ;
In vain he saw that he had climbed on high.

“ We love the King who loves the law,” one sings ;⁴⁰
But Cromwell all to *one dead level* brings.

A second Cromwell had a DESPOT been,
If Richard had been hypocrite, I ween.

For hypocrites in Britain always thrive,
And Scotland “ fasts ” while England likes to “ live ! ”

I love the Queen who loves *one* fervent hour,⁴¹
Nor lets John Knox her good sense overpower.

In vain just now within “ the City ” seen
The painted canvas veiled by, flimsy screen,⁴²
Cromwell the crown puts by, and well he might,
An emblem that would crush a deal too tight.

Our Unitarians have their Prayer Book now,⁴³
While Barebones’ lot with Cromwell’s ox would plough,⁴⁴

³⁹ Words said to have been printed by Colonel Harrison.

⁴⁰ Cowper.

⁴¹ It is in these days told, as a good story in Scotland, that Her Majesty Queen Victoria sent her injunctions to the divine about to officiate, her wish that he would not exceed the time above mentioned. If true, an agreeable change has taken place in Scotland from the period when the unfortunate but beautiful Queen Mary was obliged to hear discourses, not by the hour but *by the day ! ! !*—I. S.

⁴² Some years back the writer observed on the busy ant-hill, or rather “ Cornhill,” that all the small creatures were in motion. The motion was more than usual ; it was *commotion !* What is it ? the answer as Pat would have given it. “ Have you not seen it ? ” “ No,” the reply. “ Then go and see ! ” up-stairs a fine picture of “ Cromwell refusing ? ” As if he refused !!! who with a soldier’s sword exercised despotic power ; and who did his best to transmit it to his son Richard.—I. S.

⁴³ It is worthy of remark, that while the Independents dislike the “ *Prayer-book* ” nearly as much as ever, the Unitarians, who are now the representatives of the old Presbyterian party of 1648, have both a “ revised Liturgy,” taken in many parts word for word from the Church of England Prayer-book, and “ *steeple houses*,” or churches with steeples, against which such senseless tirades were once both spoken and written.

⁴⁴ Chiefly Independents.—I. S.

With quiet innuendo seek to hint,
 While at the Sceptre Royal they would squint,
 And squint in vain though Rome would bear them out,⁴⁵
 And prop *the VIRGIN* on the nobles' rout !

* * * * *

Of Mary bright, of George's daughter sing
 Who built the Hospital, abjured the ring—
 A virgin true, still true to all her race,
 Not Mercers merely, but of human trace.
 In Dublin still Miss Mercer's Hospital,
 Is proof serene of Christian love for all !
 Of Fairfax Mercer we have nought to pen,
 His lands⁴⁶ in Roden's powerful grasp we ken.
 Nor would we miss that quiet loving race
 Who worthily inhabit "Farm Lodge" place—
 A race for virtue and for beauty known,
 As all attest who live in Belfast town.

⁴⁵ Which she will do. The three estates can be upheld without the aid of Rome ; whereas the *interference* of an *INTERESTED* priesthood can only do harm ; harm to religion, harm to the state ! The masses of England represented by the "Volunteers" will never (mark the word) tolerate Rome *in power*. Therefore *leave religion free*, and a reformed Church of Great Britain, with a revised ritual, must thrive. The Laity of Great Britain are disposed to respect a *CLERGY* acting up to the dictates of the Bible. Religion in England now is one great *sham* ! while thousands in Britain are sighing for vitality in religion, and *the truth as it is in Jesus*. We are on the eve of great *religious changes* ; let the State keep all *sects* in order, *but allow none to drag it on to destruction* ! Isaac Butt, God help his name, for he is far *beside the mark* ! in his "Plea for the Celt," at p. 22, calls the old Norman noblesse, *Anglo-ROMANS* !! Shades of the Barons of England, and is it come to this depth, that ye are to be thus impugned ? !

Of course this strain is too lofty to be long sustained, even by *a Butt*, and at p. 24 he descends to dignify them with their old quiet designation *Anglo-Norman*. I pretend to be no prophet, but to some reading, and I do think it will be hard if the aristocracy of England shatter their noble vessel the "MAGNA CHARTA" on the sunken rock of Rome ! This *false friend* of Ireland, we hear, would make a bid for Tipperary !! !—*I. S.*

⁴⁶ Fairhill, County Louth, which came into possession of the Roden family through marriage with an heiress—Mary, da. of Fairfax Mercer. His sister Alicia, married, A.D. 1750, to Stephen Cassan, Esq., is described

A Mercer true was “ Bernard of that ilk,”
 “ Of human kindness ” he had drained the “ milk ; ”
 His English heiress would have given her dower,
 Her children failing, had she had the power ;
 To husband’s friends, to Captain Bernard’s race,⁴⁷
 But strict entail a bar on her did place,
 Though even then good Bernard ne’er forgot
 That ancient race from whom he had his lot,
 Nor could he, when he chanced to see that Hugh,
 Who so loved mother and his brother too ;
 For *self* abjuring he did sole remain,
 That Henry’s seed the freehold fair might gain,
 That Mercer still a landlord might remain,
 And plant our foot still firmly on the main,
 While happy guests from Northern Athens⁴⁸ come
 And woo the girls but would affect the son,
 And she that Boyd but now that Mercer true,
 Could I forget, oh, ever might I rue
 The day she took our little helpless child,
 The mother in heaven, herself the boy beguiled,
 Till he no mother’s loss did ever know !
 Oh happy boy, who can two mothers show.

as da. of William Mercer of *Newton-Ardes, Co. Down*, of Dublin, and of Fairhill, Co. Louth. Burke’s “ Hist. of Commoners.” London, 1834.

⁴⁷ Captain Bernard Mercer, Royal Marines, who married the heiress of the Slaughters. His name, which we trace back to Bernard le Mercer, who signed the Ragman’s roll, A.D. 1296, at Perth, has never failed among the Irish branch of the family of Mercer. Marcus Hill Mercer, who served in the army, and Trevor Mercer, royal navy, were also of this family. The Reverend John Montgomery, son of Marcus, was tutor to his Grace the Duke of Northumberland.

⁴⁸ Belfast ; thus often called from the love of literature there shown ; this is a fact which stands out in agreeable contrast from the practice of many commercial cities where hard *utilitarianism* prevails, and which forms the *Procrustean bed* to which all ideas of science and elegance are to be brought and cramped, or elongated. Athens was the seat of learning, and, but for the jealous spirit of an *envious democracy*, may we not add would have been the seat of empire ? Corinth was the commercial city, and in comparison with Athens seldom mentioned.

We two of John High Constable can boast,
 Who flew to arms when Thurót neared the coast,
 From "Hill Hall Court" he led the tenants down,
 Did Carrickfergus our first seat surround,
 While from his sons Sam' raised some volunteers,
 John with *proud* Arthur, join ⁴⁹ the Yeoman spears,
 For when Magennis' last him dared to brand,
 As upstart, drawing his sword, with horse in hand,
 He leaps the fence ⁵⁰ and dares Hibernia's son
 To back his word, as all true Scots had done.
 This proves the truth which William erst had sung,
 That Scots with Irish never mixed among ;
 But scorned their saints, their priests and all their dirt,
 And often trod upon O'Connell's skirt ! ⁵¹
 For see two hundred years had failed to make
 Erin's last son a joke from him to take ;
 For in the north, the few the many call,
 "Scotch folk," as though the Fenians still ruled all.
 The youngest Edward, mindful of his race,
 In *ninety-seven*, watched the soldiers' pace,
 The rapid tread, the bugle's quickening sound ;
 With bended knees he sank upon the ground,

⁴⁹ In the rebellion of 1798. John's horse was shot under him in the severe fight at Ballynahinch.

⁵⁰ This is not a bad specimen of the times or of the discipline ; and even in 1861 among volunteers we have heard of permission to leave the ranks being asked, refused and yet *taken* ! Surely without a *severe discipline* the sword is but a two-edged weapon. In 1857 the Sepahis mutinied ; in 1860 the "Dumpies," i. e., certain *small* refractory European soldiers, so called in India ; and in December, 1860, in a royal battery too, some discharged *Indian* gunners were 'going to show the rest "how they managed things in India," but they were met with a strong hand ! This Magennis was of the illustrious Downshire family, and was often, though unfortunate, a welcome guest at Hill Hall Court.

⁵¹ The Norman gentleman flung down his gauntlet as gage of battle ; the Saxons rub ears together ; but Pat in a more lady-like way drags his coat-tails along and says, "tread on that, *ould fellow*, if ye dare ?" !

And in the fields invoked the Father's aid
 That he while rebels swarmed were true and staid,
 His prayer was heard, that he might serve his king.
 E'en fifty years did only shape a daring⁵²
 Which prompted him on Blayney's sad mistake,
 In time of need despatches dread to take.
 On Catalonia's coast our troops were pushed ;
 When British pride, not British pluck, was hushed.
 He died in harness, as he oft desired,
 Four soldiers sons with soldier's zeal inspired ;
 Frances Maria, relict, here claims place,
 For she a benefactress to her race.
 Of Saxon⁵³ lineage she, but firm to keep
 Her children fair from falsehood's dangerous steep.

⁵² He was a man to be both loved and feared ; loved by the good and feared by the bad. Polished and kind to the ladies, we have often admired the grace with which he attended to their little wants ; he was in this respect a specimen of the *Irish gentleman*, with whom very few can be compared ; while he was conscientious in the performance of his duties to his queen and country, and honourable in his business transactions. His epitaph, as written in Lisburn Cathedral, has scarcely done him justice, but it was written when the remembrance of his retiring modesty as to self was quite recent.

⁵³ There would seem some doubt on this point, from recent communications with Commodore Preble, of the United States Navy. This branch of the old Kent family have long distinguished themselves in the Navy of the United States. One of their men-of-war was called the "Preble," as appears in the following quotation : " In the progress of the war, attention had been directed on both sides, to different classes of naval structure, composed of iron, such as floating batteries, rams ; and on the 12th of Oct. an affair occurred near the mouth of the Mississippi river, in which a partially submerged iron ram, the MANASSAS, attacked the Federal blockading fleet at the head of the Passes, sinking one of them, the PREBLE, and driving the remainder of the fleet out of the river. This the first of our (Southern) naval exploits, was to be followed by adventures on a larger and more brilliant scale.—"First Year of the War in America, by Edw. A. Pollard." London : Geo. Philip & Son, 32, Fleet Street. See Appendix D.

Their youngest *killed in action* ;⁵⁴ but now has sped
 To vast and grim Valhalla's hall so dread,
 To join his sire ; as Christian warrior did feel,
 That truth indeed may join with truth in steel !
 That statesman sad who *needlessly* makes strife,
 Must *answer* at the judgment-seat of life !
 This is the one extreme ; but one as bad remains,
 Faith rules *the few* ; the wicked mob still strains,
 By dangerous demagogues to shake the throne ;
 Nor hesitate ; till comes, “Praise God Barebone”!!!
 Such men insist upon the THIRD Estate ;
 But only that they swell their selfish state.
 But now the soldier is not such a *tool*,
 He knows he must support those born to rule.⁵⁵
 He feels that “Rankers” hardest tread his toes,
 As small Whig masters their clerks’ votes dispose !⁵⁵

⁵⁴ While a nation should always be prepared to defend itself, and each arm and individual should be perfect in training, and capable at a short notice of any extension whether as to rank or numbers, it yet should not desire war ; and the minister should be held strictly and sternly responsible, that as, on the one hand, unjust war be not undertaken, so, on the other, that the national honour and interest be not *sacrificed* ! Whether in allowing Denmark to be *oppressed* ; *mercantile* Prussia to get a sea-board on the *German Ocean* ; and as *equivalent* the extension of France to the Rhine, the national honour and discernment, we may *even add*, *the national interests*, *have been consulted*, is with some a question. At any rate, the case of the *Duchies* was clear to the writer, when he recollects in Prussia, on his return from the Crimea, the affirmation of a Prussian envious of the mercantile prosperity of Britain, who said *they intended to have this sea-board* ! As Italy in such a posture of affairs will hardly refrain from Venice, it may be asserted that a proper armed intervention at the right time, would possibly have saved much bloodshed. See Appendix E.

⁵⁵ Any little mistake of a Cardigan or a Lucan, is instantly published by the assiduity of the Radicals, who want to stand in their places, because they are PEERS OF THE REALM ; but who cares to publish far and wide the tyranny of such *small* men who help to swell the ranks of the Whigs, and yet who daily perpetrate acts of tyranny, never heard of from the nobility, who are *certain of their position* ! We know

He will support Queen, Lords, with Commons too,
 Nor think those rulers who but cobble his shoe !
 And if the shoe, still more they'll *botch* the State,
 Which blindly gulphs all "Little John" may prate !
 Law to support is then the soldier's right ;
 For justice, aye, for equity he'll fight.
 The Quartermaster from the peer he knows,
 The last minds discipline ; the first his *clothes* !
 The first *new-born* is jealous of his rank ;
 And snubs the *private* ; while he turns his *flank* ;
 For in his rise he does take too much note,⁵⁶
 Which cringing to his chief he does devote !

particular case of an ingenious and clever artificer about to leave the service of his master because of his *tyranny* ; and he asserts in his *circle* the existence of many such cases ! therefore why should *CONSERVATIVES* be afraid of the *ballot* ? which fear is instilled by certain magnates who think they can rule the masses ? !

As to the Earl of Cardigan again, the *reputed disciplinarian*, the men *loved* him, as I know from *evidence*. "Indeed, sir," said one of that corps commanded by Lord Cardigan, to me, in *mufti*, whom he did not know, "*his lordship could drill the regiment on a plate*," meaning on the smallest possible space, which proceeding we know requires skill ; but *his discipline affected, as it should, all alike*. On *parade* and where discipline is concerned, no difference of social rank should be allowed ; the difference of a day in the army makes a man to *command*. Such discipline, however, will not suit the son of the *parvenu*, the son of a brewer, or of the oil merchant ; it is all well enough for the "*non-com.'s*" (such is their way of naming the non-commissioned officers), and the men ; but they themselves, the *elite* of the *monied* aristocracy, they are all *gentlemen* ; they are not to be so treated ! We know the son of a brewer, who did his best to upset the discipline of a regiment : we know also through similar influence of the honest native of Persia, though *poor*, being branded as a "*calumniator*," in the pages of such a calm body as the British and Foreign Unitarian Association, the Rev. Robert Brook Aspland being secretary, and that too falsely asserted, "on the best testimony" ! when it was known to the secretary *at least*, that one other party, in *decency*, ought to have been asked, if only to prevent his committee being seriously compromised !

⁵⁶ True in all cases, whether in the rise of some private soldiers or of some Radicals. Possibly Littlejohn is a brother of "The Costermonger" in Hyde Park, so approved of by him of "Lincoln's Inn !!!"

So that his new-found *brothers* he withstand
 And resist those who firmly would command ! ⁵⁷
 The peer does prove the kindness is his own,
 But "duty" is from British ⁵⁸ mast-head shown.
 Now I must end this chronicle too long ;
 But Seannachie has it in his song,
 The Mercer ceased when " Robert " named the race ;
 And Margaret Mercer Elphinstone ⁵⁹ had place !
 To seniors I forbear to give advice ;
 But their ingenuous young are not so nice !
 Their candid minds will serious truth receive ;
 And what is truth they surely will believe.
 The muse may pause in wisdom's ways when dark,
 The backslidings of any race to mark,
 The Mercers thought that with the great to be,
 Was but the *greatness*, which they were to see.
 But now the sword of truth is in the sheath,
 With " Mercer " dropped ; while added, yet, is *Keith*.⁶⁰
 This might they have known by law of nature seen,
 The larger draws the smaller drop, I ween.
 Now let us on the Russells ⁶¹ cast our eyes,
 Nor be astonished at their lawful rise.

⁵⁷ This can of course only occur in such regiments where there may chance to be a weak commanding officer.

⁵⁸ " England expects every man to do his duty" (Admiral Lord Nelson). In this sentence but one fault ; not the half of one of the Isles, but ALL THE ISLES OF BRITAIN expected men to do their duty. Use the word Britain, expressive of Ireland, England, and Scotland, and you take one of the best and most *poisoned* arrows from the quiver of the *Roman* Jesuit ! In these Isles it is time that differences of *race*, and with them causes for *dissension*, though not for *honourable emulation*, were removed. Many, we venture to say, would conform to the Church of GREAT BRITAIN who now avoid the Church of England !

⁵⁹ The Baroness Nairne and Keith, married to the French Count Flahault Billardrie.

⁶⁰ See notes 32 and 33.

⁶¹ The apparent presumption of the Irish Sennachie will be pardoned when it is recollected that the history of the Russell family is not only a well-known one, but instructive at the present time, when the political

Leading the civil and religious van,
 They have compassed centuries in a glorious span ;
 To genuine Reform he still is friend,
 But will have nought the THREE ESTATES to rend.
Licence for liberty he will not mistake !
 Nor ruin all but for a *trader's* sake ! ⁶²

representative of that family, Earl Russell, is called on to play a great part at a *critical* juncture. Once the barons, in the History of England, were the aggressors against liberty ; then *they secured for us* the MAGNA CHARTA ; secondly, the monarch, ill advised by a CHURCHMAN, misunderstood his position in the middle of the 17th century : now it is a monied *borough* aristocracy, who would pack our voters. *snub their clerks and warehousemen*, give officers to our Army and Navy, prevent *men rising from the ranks*, calling them "*common*" soldiers, sacrifice our national honour, and *shirk all responsibility*, as was pretty well seen in the *Crimean* panic, when it was *naively* observed that our *regimental* system was excellent, but our generals so-so ; as if general officers were not formed in regiments ! the *drift* being, that general officers are "*aristocrats*" or *CONSERVATIVES*, therefore they were so-so ! But when, in regiments, to be fond of one's profession or to talk of its duties is termed "*talking shop*," and therefore is a practice as *studiously avoided* as it is by the carpenter who "*is out for the day*," because he is in his Sunday attire, as it is styled in London, how can officers become generals ? And as the nobles do not keep shops, we must look elsewhere for this word, for this hindrance to military proficiency !

⁶² *A trader's sake*.—Now the traders themselves being judges, we leave it to them if all things are to be balanced by the tables of money or avoirdupois weight ; are there not higher motives of religion, loyalty, honour, gallantry and patriotism, which never can be placed in such scales ? We appeal to the *conscientious* trader, who with his daily opportunities still recollects that *AN HONEST MAN IS GOD'S NOBLEST WORK* ; but what account should we take of him, whose *fair* price is according to his opportunity ! to the knowing purchaser the price ; to the simple more ! hence it is that *Trade comes to have a bad smell* in the *nostrils of a chivalrous man* ; and but too many tradesmen confirm this feeling by being ashamed of the shop, particularly when "*out for the day !*" in their Sunday clothes. Ashamed of the shop, indeed ! I am proud of my profession in the Army, though some snobs of the Cox and Box tribe have attempted in my time to sneer down "*the soldier*," which name, however, *loyal*, *true*, and *knightly* men like Sir Sidney Cotton, K.C.B., have made respectable : but were I a shoemaker, I should not, I trust, be above my calling ; I should be proud of it, and endeavour to make my name known by my shoes never *pinching*

Tea let us have, but do not let us sin,
 The Merchant chuckle, nor the Devil grin !!! ⁶³
 More *true religion* we do sorely want,
 In days when much is purely simply cant !
 Shrewd minds see this, and at such "humbug" scoff !
 While the true faith lies buried in the trough.
 The Russells for our "Tavistock" ⁶⁴ we bless,
 Where call we on "Our Father" in distress.
 Distressed to find the Saviour's words so dead,
 When of *His* Church there may be other Head.
 In England's Church, 'tis there that FASHION guides
 From great Reformers ⁶⁵ now with rapid strides.
 In Rome there is "The VIRGIN" who has sway !
 While through the Earth the Crinoline ⁶⁶ holds way !!!

GLENTULCHAN,

November 1st, 1865.

and by their *lasting* merit ! Was St. Paul ashamed of his trade ? I am glad of this opportunity to say that I am acquainted with several men of business in London of whose friendship I am proud.

⁶³ Talking on the DANISH question with a person whom I discovered from his conversation to be a merchant, he said in answer to my remarks about our national honour suffering from our neglect in defending the Danes, "why, it seems you would set them all by the ears" (the remark is quite Saxon); I said "not so," but if the merchants want OPIUM smuggled into China to POISON a race, in spite of its GOVERNMENT, who only do their duty in its prevention ! or TEA in its exchange for Evangelical ladies, who in return only want to send Missionaries, they have no objection to a little phlebotomy, and all of course for the honour of Christ !!!

⁶⁴ A pretty little chapel of olden date, which we have from the Russell Family.

⁶⁵ "Reform." I am *sick of the cant* ! let us reform ourselves !!!

⁶⁶ "CRINOLINE."—It is seriously trusted that no connection between this line and the lady of the preceding line will be established. We ourselves have too profound a respect for the mother of our Blessed Saviour to force her on the notice of the world, or to dissever the connection between her and her husband, and her legitimate place in History. We abhor even *insinuation*; but Mr. Punch is perfectly profane and should be prosecuted !

"*May 5th, 1866. PUNCH, OR THE LONDON CHARIVARI,*" p. 191.
THE POPE'S LOST LETTERS.

"Our interest and attention were awakened the other day by the subjoined statement in the *Pall Mall Gazette* :—

"There is now no doubt of the abstraction from the Pope's bureau, by an audacious and unknown hand, of a portfolio, containing autograph letters from several sovereigns. It is forbidden to speak of it at the Vatican, consequently the particulars are enveloped in mystery."

"It was in vain that the Papal Government turned Mr. Home, the Spiritualist, out of Rome for the practice of sorcery. They should also, if they could, have exorcised the Vatican and driven the Spirits out of the Pope's premises. We are not at liberty to name the medium that has placed in our possession the very letters which mysteriously disappeared from the Pope's desk, and will only say, that determined to cater to the public appetite for knowledge, regardless of expense, we paid a very high price for them without any misgiving that, in their acquisition, we were at all guilty of buying stolen goods. We subjoin, translated, some of them, which may not appear to be of quite so much importance as they may have been preconceived. The first is dated at St. Petersburg, and signed 'A'; it is as follows:— * * * * *

* * * * *

The next is traced on pink paper, and strongly scented with musk or civet. It bears the post-mark of MADRID; it is undated, as is very commonly the case with letters written like it in a female hand:— "Most holy Father, it was really not my fault; it was not indeed, I could not help myself; upon my faith I couldn't. Consider, most holy Father, that your daughter has the misfortune to be a Constitutional Sovereign. My Government would insist on recognizing the *Excommunicated King*. Resistance would have cost me a *crown*, and done your holiness not one *rial* of good.

"Vouchsafe, most venerable successor of St. Peter, to accept the pair of jewelled white kid gloves, the diamond necklace, the *crinoline*, and the chignon which I send to adorn the *Miraculous IMAGE'!!!*"—The italics are ours.—*I. S.*

APPENDICES.

A.

When a man dies he is quaintly said only to want but *six feet* of earth ; and in Scotland alluvial soil near rivers is often called *inches*, and hence some punning *monk* of that day contrasts the feet of the Mercers', obtained in the Perth cathedral for a vault, with the *inches* of Perth, which once belonged to the "Mercer family," and which now form two noble parks, one north of the city, and one south, for the use of the people. This pun assimilates to that of the motto of the noble house of Vernon, "*Vernon semper floret*"—"Spring will not always flourish ;" but "*Vernon semper floret*"—"Vernon will always endure." So much for monkish play on words ; sound but not sense !

In England they say, "Give an *inch*, and he will take an *ell*." Query, did the saying arise in Perth ?—for here two inches were given and two ells are taken !—*I. S.*

B.

NOTES RELATIVE TO JOHN MERCER AND HIS SON, SIR ANDREW¹
MERCER, ADMIRAL OF SPAIN, CIRCITER 1377.

Circa tempus illud filius Johannis Mercer, natione Scotus, collecta non parva manu Gallicorum atque Scotorum, ac etiam

¹ We have always understood that the name of the son of John Mercer, who ravaged Scarborough, was John, and as such, it has been preserved in the Irish branch of this family.—*Irish Sennachie*. See also Seannachy's note, "Sweep the Seas," where the naval commander would seem to be John Mercer.

Hispanorum, dum adhuc dux Lancastriae Johannes in terris ageret, aggressus et naves quasdam apud Scarburgh, quas incantas levi negotio cepit, et secum ad mare deduxit, occisis prius quibusdam, qui navibus illis p[re]e-erant, quibusdam vinculis mancipatis. Et ideo quam maxime nostratibus irrogaverat in ultiōnem opprobrii patris sui, qui antea ab Anglis captus fuerat et in castello de Scarburgh mandato regio custoditus. Est autem pater ejus aequ[us] Scotus tam gente quam patria et Regi Franciae propter divitias multas p[re]a-dilectus, nam erat mercenarius et vir satis vafer et concilio providus, cuius non immerito oris decreta in his que Anglia contingebant ipse rex et omnes Gallici sequebantur. Hunc casu interceptum cum quibusdam navibus, Northumbrenses eorum comiti p[re]aesentarunt. Qui ut diximus in eodem castello custodiae deputatus, cito post deliberatus fuerat ad magnum damnum totius regni et omnium incolarum. Nam si redemptus fuisset captivorum more regem et regnum inaestimabili pecunia divites effecisset.

Hujus filius ut p[re]alibavimus, post-quam damna nostratibus apud Scarburgh intulisset, gloriabatur de arridente sibi fortuna, et majora Angliae damna non solum meditabatur, sed etiam publice minabatur, sed ejus conatus ipse impedivit, qui superbos humiliat et exaltet humiles. Tum vero suscitavit Deus contra eum unum ex civibus Trinovantum, qui eum humiliavit et à timore ejus regnum Angliae liberavit, ut patebit inferius volentibus intueri. Johannes Philpot, civis Londoniensis, vir et ingenio p[re]ditus et potentissimus opibus, ducis Lancastriae, et ceterorum dominorum defectum, ne dicam falsitatem, qui regnum defendisse debuerant attente considerans, et oppressionibus condolens incolarum de propria pecunia conduxit mille armatos, qui et praedicto Johanni Mercer eriperent naves et bona, quae latrocinando ceperat, et regnum Angliae à talibus incurribus tuerentur. Et factum est, ut omnipotens, qui semper assistit piis votis, sibi et suis successus prosperos ministravit, ita ut in brevi ejusdem Johannis Merceri filium jure bellico, sui conductitii caperent, cum omnibus quae apud Scarburgh ipse violenter abduxerat, et aliis quindecem navibus Hispanorum, onustis multis divitiis, quae sibi auxilio fuerant eodem tempore infausta hora. Fit ergo in plebe universa tripodium, omnibus laudantibus et admirantibus, tandem ipsius viri erga regem

benevolentiam et charitatem, jamque solus Johannes Philpot ore omnium laudabatur, et admirationi habebatur, de nostris vero proceribus et militia quæ dudum conducta fuerat, dicebantur probrosa verba, aspera et invectiva, prout commune vulgus solet inferre vario motu suo. Londonienses præcipue obloquebantur, dicentes, jam perpaucorum procerum corda fore cum rege, eos solos sibi fideles esse, quorum rex, licet ironice, vocabatur a nonnullis proceribus, eo quod ipsi multum juvissent eum in coronatione sua.²

[TRANSLATION.]

About this time,³ the son of John Mercer, a Scot, collected a considerable band of Gauls, and Scots, and Spaniards, during the government of Duke John of Lancaster, and having attacked certain ships at Scarborough, took them without much trouble, for they had kept a bad watch, and carried them off to sea, having first killed some of those in charge of them, and put others in fetters. He had done all the mischief he could to our countrymen, in revenge of an injury done to his father, who had before this been seized by the English, and lodged in Scarborough Castle by royal mandate. His father also was born a Scot,⁴ and of Scotch extraction, and was in great favour with the King of France on account of his immense wealth, for he was skilful in matters relating to commerce, and fertile in expedient and

² Chronica Thomae Walsingham, quondam monachi S. Albani, contained in Camden's "Anglica, Normanaica, Hibernica, Cambrica, a Veteribus Scripta." Francof, 1603. p. 211.

³ The capture and release of John Mercer, the father, seems to have taken place towards the end of the reign of Edward III. Richard ascended the throne on 22nd June, 1377, when only eleven years of age. A council of nine persons was appointed by Parliament to govern the kingdom: this council acted under the control of the Duke of Lancaster, who had all the authority without the office of Regent. The son was probably Andrew, who subsequently succeeded to the paternal property. We find in the Book of Scone a charter to John Mercer, and his son Andrew, of a tenement in Perth, which had belonged to Thomas the father of John, 10th Feb. 1353.

⁴ Still this particularity would point at a *foreign* origin of the Mercers. I believe they came from about Flanders.—I. S.

prudent in counsel, so that his opinion with regard to English affairs had naturally great weight with the King and nation of France. The people of Northumberland had accidentally intercepted him with certain ships, and made him over to their Earl. Having been put in safe keeping in the aforesaid castle, as we have mentioned, he had soon after been released, to the great loss of the whole realm and people; for, had he been held to ransom in the usual manner, he would have brought a vast sum of money into the royal coffers.

After inflicting upon our countrymen at Scarborough⁵ the losses we have described, the son was much elated by the good turn fortune had served him, and openly threatened still further mischief. His career was checked, however, by Him who bringeth down the proud, and exalteth the humble; for God put it into the heart of a Londoner to deliver England, and to overthrow her enemy, as will appear to those who will read. John Philpot, an able and wealthy citizen of London, having pondered much over the gross neglect, not to say treachery, of the Duke of Lancaster, and other nobles, whose duty it was to protect the kingdom, and sympathising warmly with the distress of his oppressed countrymen, raised, at his own expense, a band of a thousand men, with the intention of taking from John Mercer⁶ the ships and property he had piratically carried off, and preventing the recurrence of similar attempts for the future. The Almighty, who ever furthers pious purposes, gave His blessing to the undertaking, so that in a short time John Philpot's men encountered and seized John Mercer's son,⁷ and

⁵ The defeat of the English is said to be commemorated by the family crest, a stork killing a water-serpent, with the motto "ye gret pule," that is, the great pool or sea. Another version is that the crusader who assumed the coat armour, struck by the number of ibises he saw, and by their great utility in ridding the country of the snakes by which it was infested, adopted it as his crest, and the motto signifies the great poul of poulet or fowl.

⁶ It is doubtful whether Walsingham, by "John Mercer," means the father, or that the son was also called John. Andrew appears to have been the only son of "John."—*Seannachy*.

⁷ We think John must have been the name of the so-called pirate, from the anxiety in our family to keep up the name of John. Why could not old John have a son John as well as one called Andrew?—*I. S.*

took everything he had carried off from Scarborough, along with fifteen Spanish ships, richly laden, which unluckily for them, had joined him in his piratical proceedings. This success caused great exultation among the people, every one praising and admiring the good will and loyal affection which Philpot had shown towards the King: all mouths praised only him, all men admired him; but against the chief nobles, and the soldiery previously raised, opprobrious words and harsh invectives were uttered, such as the common people are wont to use under the influence of each new excitement. The Londoners especially were abusive, saying that now the hearts of very few of the nobles were with the King, and that, although it was in irony that certain of the nobles called him King of those who had aided him in his coronation, it was nevertheless the fact that those men only remained faithful.

Macpherson, in his "Annals of Commerce," vol. i. pp. 586—7 (London, 1805), remarks on this historical fact as follows:—

John Mercer, a merchant of Scotland,⁸ who used to trade to France, and was in great favour with the King of that country, on account of his prudence and good services, when returning home to Scotland in the year 1377, was driven by stress of weather upon the coast of England, seized, and confined in the castle of Scarborough, till an order from Court effected his discharge.⁹ His son, to revenge the injury, cruised before

⁸ He seems to have been a burgess of Perth, apparently the chief port of Scotland after the loss of Berwick, till the royal residence, permanently fixed at Edinburgh,¹⁰ gave Leith a superiority over the other ports of the kingdom. He obtained charters for several tenements in and near Perth; and he also held lands of the Earl of Douglas, who calls him his vassal in a letter sent to King Richard, remonstrating upon the injustice of the seizure.—(Robertson's Index, pp. 66, 74, 120, 129; original letter in Bib. Cott. Vesp. F. vii. f. 34.)

⁹ Walsingham says, If he had been released as a captive for a ransom, the King and the whole kingdom would have got *inestimable* riches by it, and he regrets the loss of it. This is surely overrating the opulence of Mercer at a prodigious rate. The narrow-minded monk, blinded with what he supposed patriotic zeal, did not see any injustice in detaining a man a prisoner in time of peace.

¹⁰ Perth ceased to be the Scottish metropolis in 1482.

Scarborough with a fleet composed of French, Scots, and Spaniards, and took several vessels. John Philpot, an opulent citizen of London, thereupon took upon himself the protection of the trade of the kingdom, neglected by the Duke of Lancaster, who, without the name of regent, governed the kingdom in the minority of his nephew, and having hired a thousand armed men, sent them to sea in search of Mercer, whom they took, together with his prizes and fifteen Spanish vessels, his consorts, all richly loaded.¹¹

In Robertson's Index, p. 63, we have evidence of John Mercer being a vassal of the Earl Douglas, in Charter No. 43, by which King David II. confirms to John Mercer the grant made to him by Earl Douglas of the lands of Pettland, in Strathurd. This charter is without date; but as we find from the Great Seal, p. 58, No. 181, that the King was at Strathurd on the 18th January, 1367, it was probably on that day that this grant was confirmed.

Letter from the Earl of Douglas and Mar to Richard II. (probably in 1376 or 1377.)

Tres noble et peussant Prince, jeo monstre par voi de complainte a vous, Seigneur, et a votre bonne Consaile, par cestes mes lettres, comment que John Mercer mon homme ore ad estee par grant temps tribuleez, et annoieez torcenousement, deinz votre roialme, contre la vertue de noz grantz trews, comunement tailliez et accordez perentre les roialms: parla ou ile rienz ne mespristes, mes que ile es ses loials marchandises retournant en sa payse, par force de meer et tempeste feut dejettuz au terre, et arrestez par vos subgitz; et uncore par le Conte de Northumbreland detenuz en prison. Au quoi, tres noble Prince, vous pleas avoir regarde et consideration; et par voz lettres au dit Conte faire commander expressemement, que le dit John, mon homme, soit delivrez franchement, sanz lui plus travailler et

¹¹ By this enterprise Philpot got much envy and ill-will among the nobles and military men, but much applause among his fellow-citizens, who chose him for their mayor at the next election.

ryot faire. Kar au proscheine joer de marche, si ceo vous pourra pleer, ile sera present, pour y demonstrer devant voz deputeez, que ile ny ad rien trespasssee ne mesprise en celle part, si Dieu pleast. Oultre ceo, tres noble Prince, touchantz Meistre Thomas Mercer, mon clerk, pour qui jeo escriva au votre noblesse devant celle temps, et monstre humblement a vous, Seigneur, et a votre dit Consaille, les damages, costages, et perdes, qile ad sustenue et fait durant sa arreste forpris ; ses tribulations, annoys, et tortz, qui amontent au deux centz marcs de sterl. et oultre ; des queux vous please luy faire avoir redresse et restorance en due maniere ; ou aultrement celuy, ou ceux, qui luy arresteint, commander pour comparer personalement au dite joer de marche, pour le charge soubtzaler devant voz deputeez susditz, ou le dit mon clerk sera prest pous respondre et recever semblable maniere, selont les usages des joers des marches, par voi de reson, si Dieu pleast. Tres noble Prince, ceo qui vous pleira de commander, pour estre fait cellendroit, me deignez lesser savoir par vos lettres, oe le portour du cestes. Que luy toute peussant Dieu, par sa tressantisme grace, votre noblesce veulle demesner au vie pardurable. Esc. le xvime joer de Novembre.

LE CONTE DE DOUGLAS ET DE MARRE.

(*Directed, Au tresnoble et peussant Prince le roy d'Engletere.*)¹²

[TRANSLATION.]

Most noble and mighty Prince, my object by these letters is to show, by way of complaint to you, Sovereign Lord, and to your good Council, how that John Mercer, my vassal, has been for a long time subjected to trouble, and wrongfully distressed within your kingdom,¹³ in violation of our great truce mutually formed¹⁴ and agreed to between the two kingdoms: for when he had committed no fault, but was returning by sea into his

¹² Pinkerton's "History of Scotland," vol. i. Appendix, No. 1, p. 441.¹

¹³ John held lands under this Earl William, who had the presumption to contest the right to the Scottish crown with Robert II. on the death of David.

¹⁴ The English then had been the aggressors.

own country in the course of his lawful business, having been cast upon land by the tempestuous violence ¹⁵ of the waves, he was arrested by your subjects, and is still held a prisoner by the Count of Northumberland. May it please you, most noble Prince, to extend to this matter your considerate attention, and by your letters to the said Count expressly to command that the said John, my vassal, be freely set at liberty, without putting him to further trouble and raising any dispute about it. For at the next day of march, should this be your pleasure, he will be present to prove before your deputies, that he has transgressed in nothing, nor committed any fault in that particular, if so it please God. Besides, most noble Prince, in regard to Mr. Thomas Mercer, my clerk,¹⁶ on whose behalf I wrote before to your Excellence, and humbly showed to you, Sovereign Lord, and to your said Council, the damages, expenses, and losses which he has incurred and sustained during the time of his detention as a prisoner, his troubles, distresses, and wrongs, which amount to 200 marks sterling, and upwards, may it please you to cause him to obtain adequate redress and restoration thereof, or otherwise to command the party or parties by whom he was arrested to compear personally, on the said day of march, to substantiate the charge before your above-mentioned deputies, or my said clerk will be prepared to answer by way of proof, and to hear, in like manner, what may be said against him, according to the customs of the day of marches, if so it please God. Most noble Prince, what you shall be pleased to command to be done in that respect, condescend to let me know by your letters, or by the bearer of these. May Almighty God, by His most holy grace, vouchsafe to conduct your Excellence to everlasting life. Written the 16th day of November.

THE COUNTE OF DOUGLAS AND OF MARR.

(Addressed, To the most noble and mighty Prince the King of England.)

¹⁵ This corroborates the charge in his accounts. John Mercer, as King's Treasurer, charges himself with remuneration paid to certain merchants for losses by shipwreck on the English coast in 1376.

¹⁶ This letter appears to have been written on November 16th, 1376. Douglas, during the lifetime of his brother-in-law, uses this double signa-

Pinkerton, in his "History of Scotland," vol. i. pp. 15—17, introduces this letter with the following observations:—[A.D. 1378.] "The revenge of an individual contributed still further to destroy any remaining harmony between the two nations. Mercer, a Scotchman, commanding a small fleet of Scottish, French, and Spanish vessels, suddenly displayed his motley squadron before Scarborough, and captured some valuable English ships of merchandise, because that his father, a wealthy merchant, residing in France, had been taken at sea by some Northumbrians, and imprisoned at that place. The father was a man of importance at the French Court, esteemed by Charles the Wise, and his advice followed in many points detrimental to the English, and advantageous to the French, commerce. Walsingham expresses unaffected concern that the Earl of Northumberland had executed justice in soon delivering him without ransom; for, adds he, 'if he had been ransomed by the common rules, he might have enriched the King, and kingdom, with inestimable wealth.'¹⁷ But, though the elder Mercer had been delivered, it would appear that his ships and cargo were not; and that retaliation conspired with revenge to excite his son to this enterprise. The young man, boasting of the exploit, continued to keep the sea, as defying the maritime power of England; till John Philpot, a wealthy and ingenuous merchant of London, stung with the disgrace offered to the commerce of his country, fitted out ships of force, provided with one thousand men, raised at his own expense, who assaulted and took Mercer, his newly-acquired prey, and fifteen Spanish ships which assisted him. The Duke of Lancaster, who swayed the councils of the young English monarch, rather checked than applauded the spirit of Philpot; and commissioners were appointed to treat with those of Scotland concerning peace."

ture, but never when both earls are present. When the Earl of Mar signs a charter with the Earl of Douglas, he (the Earl of Mar) invariably signs first, and William Douglas immediately after him.

¹⁷ It was apparently on this occasion that a letter was written to the English King by the Earl of Douglas and Mar. It terms John Mercer "mon homme," and says he was detained, though cast on shore, contrary to the great truce. "Mr. Thomas Mercer, mon clerk," is also mentioned as captured.—See it in that treasure of original pieces, Vesp. F. vii. f. 34.

In the account given in by John Lyon, Lord of Glammys, Chamberlain of Scotland, at Dundee, on the 18th of March (1377—8), is the following item:—

“Et domino Patricio de Graham, domino Symoni de Ketnys, et Johanni Mercer, nunciis misis in Angliam, C. lib.”¹⁸

Salvus conductus pro nunciis Scoticis, ad Regem Ricardum accessuris.

Rex per literas suas patentes usque ad primum diem Martii proximum futurum duraturas suscepit in protectionem et defensionem suam necnon in salvum et securum conductum suum Patricium de Grame militem Magistrum Simonem de Cettneis clericum, et Johannem Mercer de villa Sancti Johannis de Scotia veniendo in regnum nostrum Anglie ad nos et consilium nostrum ad tractandum de quibusdam negotiis nos et regnum nostrum et ipsos de Scotia tangentibus ibidem morando et exinde in Scotiam redeundo.

Datum apud Westmonasterium xxv. die Martii. Per ipsum regem et Consilium.¹⁹ [A.D. 1378, 1 Rich. II.]

[TRANSLATION.]

Safe conduct for the Scottish Envoys coming to King Richard.

The King, by his letters patent, to have force up to the first day of March next ensuing, has taken under his special protection and defence, and under his safe and secure conduct, Patrick de Grame, knight, Mr. Simon of Cettneis, clerk, and John Mercer of Saint Johnstone, in Scotland,²⁰ for coming into our kingdom of England to us and our Council, to treat of certain matters affecting us and our kingdom and the people of Scot-

¹⁸ “Rotuli Compotorum,” vol. ii. p. 94.

¹⁹ “Rotuli Scotiæ,” vol. ii. p. 7 b.

²⁰ Where is Johnstone, see remark, p. 13. It is another name for Perth. See note, p. 7, “Mercer Chronicle.”

land themselves, for remaining in that kingdom, and for returning thence into Scotland.

Given at Westminster the 25th day of March [1378]. By the King and Council.

*Mandatur quod Thomas Mercer, captivus, detineatur sine ferris
aut vinculis.*

Rex Thome Cornewalays, uni vicecomitum nostrorum Londoni,—Salutem.

Precipimus tibi quod capta a Thoma Mercer, de Scotia, qui pro adhesione inimicis nostris captus, et in prona sub custodia tua in ferris et vinculis ante ut dicitur detinetur sufficiente securitate, quod idem Thomas a prona predicta non recedet nec se elongabit, ipsum Thomam salvo et honesto modo absque ferris seu vinculis sub custodia tua quousque aliud tibi pro deliberatione sua duxerimus demandandum facere detineri.

Teste Rege apud Westmonast. xx. die Junii. Per Consilium.²¹ [A.D. 1379.]

[TRANSLATION.]

*Mandate regarding Thomas Mercer, prisoner, to be detained without
irons and bonds.*

The King to Thomas Cornwallis, one of our Sheriffs of London,—Greeting.

We enjoin you—in respect to the prisoner Thomas Mercer, of Scotland, arrested for his adhesion to our enemies, and said to be strictly detained in irons and bonds in prison, under your authority, and under sufficient security,—that the said Thomas Mercer be not allowed to leave prison, nor withdraw himself to any distance; but that he be detained under your custody, in a

²¹ "Rotuli Scotiæ," vol. ii. p. 16.

safe and honourable way, *without* irons and bonds, until some other commands shall be given you as to his release.

Given at Westminster the 20th day of June. By the Council, in presence of the King.

Salvus conductus pro Thoma Mercer, Archidiacono Glasguensi.

Rex per literas suas patentes usque festum Sancti Andree proximum futurum duraturas suscepit in salvum et securum conductum suum neonon in protectionem et defensionem suam specialem Magistrum Thomam Mercer, Archidiaconum Glasguensem, in Scotiâ, qui in Anglia moratur morando infra idem regnum suum et eundo exinde cum duobus familiaribus tribus equis et aliis hernesii suis versus partes Scotiae et abinde in regnum suum Angliae veniendo et ibidem morando et exinde ad dictas partes Scotie iterum redeundo.

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium xvij. die Octobris. Per Consilium.²² [A.D. 1379.]

[TRANSLATION.]

Safe conduct for Thomas Mercer, Archdeacon of Glasgow.

The King, by his letters patent, to have force up to the feast of Saint Andrew next ensuing, has taken under his safe and secure conduct, and under his special protection and defence, Mr. Thomas Mercer, Archdeacon of Glasgow,²³ in Scotland, who is now in England, for remaining within the same his kingdom, and for going thence with two servants, three horses, and other his equipment, towards the parts of Scotland, and for coming from thence into his kingdom of England, and for remaining there, and for returning thence into the aforesaid parts of Scotland again.

In presence of the King, at Westminster the 18th day of October. By the Council.

²² "Rotuli Scotiae," vol. ii. p. 18 a.

²³ See note 20.

*Super Defensione Costerarum et Villae de Scardeburgh, contra
Inimicos Gallicos.*

Rex, dilectis et fidelibus suis, *Thomae de Percy*, Admirallo nostro versus partes Boriales, *Thomae Rust*, *Johanni Hesildene*, *Johanni Scardeburgh*, et *Roberto Rust* de Blakeneye,—Salutem.

Supplicarunt Nobis Comunitates Regni nostri Angliae, in ultimo Parliamento nostro, per Petitionem suam, ut,

Cùm Gallici Inimici nostri, cum Multitudine Armatorum et Vasorum de Guerra, in partibus Borialibus, et praecipuè versus Costeram et Villam de Scardeburgh (quae super Mare aperta Insultibus Inimicorum nostrorum periculosè est situata) continuè extiterint et existant, ac Gentes ejusdem Villae, per Captiones Inimicorum et Graves Redemptiones, Summam Mille Librarum attingentes, quae infra Duos Annos elapsos solutae fuerunt, sic sunt quasi destructae, et quamplures dictarum Gentium in Boloigne et aliis locis Transmarinis in Prisonâ detinentur, ita quòd de finali Destructione ejusdem Villae et Costerae adjacentis, infra Breve, verisimiliter est timendum, nisi citius per Nos indè Remedium congruum apponatur,

Velimus, pro salvatione dictæ Villæ et Costerae vicinae, ac Castri nostri ibidem, contra Pericula Hostium nostrorum certa Vasa de Guerra ordinare, supra Mare, super Costeris partium illarum, durante Guerra, profectura,

Quia verò materia praedicta tām Mercatoribus dictarum Costerarum, qui Parliamento illi interfuerunt, declarata fuit et ostensa, et de Assensu, tam ipsorum Mercatorum, quām aliorum, qui Mercandisas suas in Marcheas illas sunt ducturi, ac per Avisamentum, dilectorum et fidelium nostrorum, *Henrici de Percy Comitis Northumbriae*, et Majoris Civitatis nostraæ Londoniae, qui in dicto Parliamento nostro, ad Tractandum super Negotio illo, pro opportuno Remedio inde apponendo, assignati fuerunt, in eodem Parliamento, pro Custodiâ, Salvatione, et Defensione Maris et Costerarum, Admiratūs de la North, Ordinatum et Concessum extitit quòd Duae Naves, Duae Bargeae, et Duae Balingerae munitae et arraiatae pro Guerra, supra Mare in Admiratu praedicto proficiscentur, ad Custus subscriptos, in formâ sequenti percipiendos; videlicit,

De qualibet Navi et Craierâ, cujuscunque fuerit Portagii, quae Mare transierit, infra dictum Admiratum, eundo et redeundo, pro Viagio, de quolibet Tonne wght Sex Denarios,

Exceptis Navibus Carcatis cum Vinis, et Navibus Carcatis cum Mercandisis in Flandria, quae apud Londoniam erunt Frectatae et Discarcatae, ac Navibus Carcatis cum Lanis et Pellibus apud Londoniam vel alibi infra dictum Admiratum, quae apud Calesium erunt Discarcatae, quas quidem Naves Custodes dicti Maris absque Locatione conducere non tenebuntur,

ITEM, de quolibet Vase Piscatrice, quod supra Mare dicti Admiratûs Piscatur pro Allece capiendo, cujuscumque Portagii sit, in Septimana, de quolibet Tonne wght Sex Denarios,

ITEM, de aliis Navibus et Vasis Piscatricibus, quae Piscantur circa alios Pisces supra Mare, infra dictum Admiratum, cujuscumque Portagii sint, in Tribus Septimanis, de quolibet Tonne wght Sex Denarios,

ITEM, de quibuscumque aliis Navibus et Vasis, Mare trans-euntibus, infra dictum Admiratum, Carbonibus Carcatis apud Novum Castrum super Tynam, cujuscumque sint Portagii, in Quarterio unius Anni, de quolibet Tonne wght Sex Denarios,

ITEM, de omnibus aliis Navibus, Craieris, et Vasis, trans-euntibus per Mare, infra dictum Admiratum, Carcatis cum Bonis quorumcumque Mercatorum, in Pruciam, Norway, vel Sweden, seu in aliquem alium Locum, in dictis Partibus Transmarinis, pro Viagio, eundo, de quolibet Lasto Grani Sex Denarios,

Nos,

De fidelitate et circumspectione vestris pleniùs confidentes,

Assignavimus vos, conjunctim et divisim, Custodes dicti Maris infra Admiratum praedictum, ac ad dicta Custus et Subsidium, pro Custodia, Salvatione, et Defensione Maris et Costerarum praedictarum, tam per Terram quam per Mare, per totum Admiratum praedictum, Levandum, Colligendum, et Percipiendum per Supervisum et Contrarotulationem Supervisorum et Contrarotulaturum Subsidii et Custum praedictarum, quos ad hoc in Civitatibus, Villis, et Portibus, infra dictum Admiratum, per Literas nostras Patentes, assignavimus,

Et ad alios idoneos, in Portibus totius Admiratūs praedicti, ubi vobis meliūs expedire videbitur, ad dicta Custus et Subsidia, per hujusmodi Supervisum et Contrarotulationem, Levandum et Percipiendum, loco vestri Substituendum et Deputandum,

Et ad Compotum, de Denariis indē recipiendis, Supervisoribus et Contrarotulatoribus praedictis, fideliter reddendum; ita quòd vos, seu Deputati vestri, de Denariis, indē provenientibus, aliis, quām dictis Supervisoribus, computare non teneamini:

Et ideo vobis Mandamus, firmiter injungentes, quòd circa Praemissa omnia et singula fideliter et diligenter intendatis, et ea faciatis et excerceatis in forma praedicta.

Damus autem universis et singulis Vicecomitibus, Majoribus, Ballivis, Ministris, Mercatoribus, Magistris et Marinariis Navium, Piscatoribus, ac quibuscumque aliis Fidelibus nostris, totius Admiratūs praedicti, tam infra Libertates, quām extra, Tenore Praesentium, in Mandatis quòd vobis, et Deputatis vestris praedictis, et vestrūm culibet, in Praemissis omnibus et singulis, Intendentes sint, Obedientes, et Respondentes.

In eujus, &c. usque Festum Sanctae Katerinae, proximo futurum, duraturas.

Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, decimo sexto die Junii.

Per Petitionem Comunitatis in Parlamento.²⁴ [A.D. 1379.]

[TRANSLATION.]

*For the Defence of the Coasts and Town of Scardeburgh
against the Gallic Enemy.*

The King to his beloved and faithful subjects, Thomas de Percy, our Admiral towards the Northern parts, Thomas Rust, John Hesildene, John Scardeburgh, and Robert Rust of Blackeneye,—Health.

The community of our kingdom of England, in our last Parliament, prayed us by their petition, that,

Since our enemies, the French, with a great number of armed men and vessels of war, have continually made their

²⁴ Rymer's "Foedera," vol. iii. p. 86.

appearance, and still do, in the Northern parts, and particularly towards the coast and town of Scardeburgh (which is dangerously situated on the sea, being open to the assaults of our enemy); and the people of the same town, through the captures made by the enemy, and the heavy ransoms exacted, extending to the sum of a thousand pounds which have been paid within the two past years, are thus almost destroyed, and many of the said people are detained in prison in Boulogne, and other places beyond the sea, so that the ultimate destruction of the same town, and the adjoining coast, in a short time, is to be apprehended as a likely result, unless a suitable remedy is forthwith applied by us,

It may be our will, for the preservation of the said town and the adjoining coast, and our castle there, to ordain, for repelling the dangers threatened by our enemies, that certain vessels of war should cruise upon the coasts of these parts during the continuance of the war,

And as the foresaid matter was declared and explained to the merchants of the said coasts, who were present at that Parliament: with the consent both of these merchants and of others who are to transport their merchandise towards these marches, and by the advice of our beloved and faithful subjects, Henry de Percy, Count of Northumberland, and the Mayor of our city of London, who were appointed in our said Parliament to deliberate upon that business, in order that a suitable remedy might be applied, it has been ordained and granted, in the same Parliament, for the protection, preservation, and defence of the sea and coasts of the Admiralty of the North, that two ships, two barges, and two galleys, armed and prepared for war, shall traverse the sea in the foresaid Admiralty, for receiving the customs underwritten, according to the following regulation, to wit,

From any ship and craiera, whatever may be its poundage, which passes over the sea within the said Admiralty, in going and returning for a voyage, for each ton weight, six Denarii.

From this regulation are to be excepted ships freighted with wines, and ships freighted with merchandise in Flanders, which shall be freighted and unfreighted at London; and ships

freighted with wool and hides at London or elsewhere within the said Admiralty, which shall be unfreighted at Calais; but even these ships the keepers of the said sea shall not be bound to conduct without hire,

Likewise, from any fishing vessel which fishes upon the sea of the said Admiralty, for taking Herring, whatever be its poundage, for the week, for each ton weight, six Denarii,

Likewise, from other ships and fishing vessels which fish for other fishes upon the sea within the said Admiralty, whatever be their poundage, for three weeks, for each ton weight, six Denarii,

Likewise, from other ships and vessels of every sort, passing over the sea within the said Admiralty, freighted with coals at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, whatever be their poundage, for a quarter of a year, for each ton weight, six Denarii,

Likewise, from all other ships, craieras, and vessels crossing the sea within the said Admiralty, freighted with the goods of any merchant whatever, for Prussia, Norway, or Sweden, or for any other place in the said parts beyond sea, for a voyage, for each load of corn, six Denarii,

We,

Fully confident of your fidelity and vigilant attention, have appointed you, conjointly and severally, keepers of the said sea within the foresaid Admiralty, and to raise, collect, and receive the said customs and subsidy, for the protection, preservation, and defence of the foresaid sea and coasts, as well by land as by sea, through the whole foresaid Admiralty, by a survey and superintendence of the surveyors and comptrollers of the foresaid subsidy and customs, whom we have appointed for this purpose in cities, towns, and ports, within the said Admiralty, by our letters patent,

And to substitute and depute other fit persons in your stead in the ports of the whole foresaid Admiralty, where you shall judge it proper to do so, for more expeditiously raising and receiving the said customs and subsidies by a survey and superintendence of the same.

And faithfully to render an account of the revenue received from this source to the surveyors and comptrollers foresaid; so that you or your deputies are not bound to give account of

the revenue thence accruing to any other than to the said surveyors.

And therefore we command you, and imperatively enjoin, that you faithfully and diligently attend to all and each of the premises, and carry them into effect, according to the foresaid regulation.

And we command all and each, sheriffs, mayors, bailies, inferior officers, merchants, masters and mariners, and fishermen, and all our other faithful subjects whatsoever, both within and without the liberties of the whole foresaid Admiralty, according to the tenor of these presents, that they give attention thereto, and be obedient and accountable to you and your deputies foresaid, and to any of you, in all and each of the premises.

In testimony of which we have commanded that these our letters patent continue till the feast of Saint Katherine next to come.

In presence of the King at Westminster, on the sixteenth day of June [1379].

By Petition of the Community in Parliament.

In the *Athenæum* for 1856 is a review of M'Kie's "Historical Account of Folkestone;" with reference to some remarks therein made on the capture of the "fierce Scotch pirate, Mercier," General Alexander Cavalie Mercer contributes, at p. 1314, the following criticisms and anecdote:—

"Allow me to correct a slight mistake in the *Athenæum* of August last, p. 1016, and to state that the 'fierce Scotch pirate' there mentioned was Mercer, not 'Mercier.' John Mercer,* though termed a pirate in the parlance of that day (2 Rich. II.), was in reality a gallant and patriotic subject of Scotland's King. At a time when England's and Scotland's royal navies were mere fragments—when national armaments were got up by con-

* According to General Alexander C. Mercer, an accurate scholar, the naval adventurer was John Mercer; and the preceding statute proves the terror which he had inspired in England.

tributions from certain sea-ports, corporations, and wealthy individuals,—the said John, at his own expense, fitted out a squadron, with which he soon became the terror of England's coast, from the Tweed to the Land's-End. So great was his renown, as a naval chieftain, that the Kings of France and Spain both sent ships of war to place themselves under his command ; and the latter further sent him a commission of Admiral in the Spanish Royal Navy. I only obtrude these remarks as an introduction to the following little anecdote, which may perhaps be thought of sufficient interest to obtain a place in the columns of the *Athenæum*. Somewhere about the beginning of the nineteenth century, a cousin of mine (Lieut.-Colonel Mercer, of the Life Guards, and of Queen Anne Street, West), passing through St. Paul's Churchyard, was surprised at seeing a handsome piece of plate in a shop-window bearing his own family arms. Naturally enough, he went in to inquire whence it came, and was informed that it was one of numerous articles, which, from time to time, had been brought for sale by an old woman, who lived somewhere in the neighbourhood—that some only of these bore the arms of Mercer, the greater part being totally different. My cousin purchased the cup (for such it was), and, having ascertained the whereabouts of the person who had sold it, went in search of, and, after some trouble, found her in a miserable garret, in a lane near St. Paul's. The poor creature was on her death-bed, and he only succeeded in eliciting from her, that, to the best of her knowledge, she was the last of the Philpots of Upton Court, East Kent—from a series of misfortunes the family had been reduced to poverty,—and that she had for some time subsisted on the sale of what remained of the family plate, among which was much that had been taken on board the ship of the Scotch pirate, Mercer, by her great ancestor the Alderman, Sir John Philpots. It were needless to add, that Colonel Mercer did what he could to alleviate the misery of this last remnant of an ancient family, but in vain, she expired almost immediately afterwards. The beauty of the cup had saved it from the crucible, to which all the other articles had been consigned. In shape it is an urn, has two handles, and the cover is attached by a hinge, highly embossed, having on one side the family arms as used at this day. In size it may be about a quart. This story was related

to me by Colonel Mercer himself, very many years ago ; and I was somewhat surprised, subsequently to his death, on finding his son (the late Lieut.-General Douglas Mercer, C.B.) totally ignorant of it until mentioned by me."

Ince and Gilbert, in their "History of England," p. 106, say, in commenting on the commerce of the fourteenth century— "The captain of a ship was apparently an important person in reference to commerce. In the list of 'excepted articles,' we find his ornamented belt, neck-chain, silver drinking-cup, and the ring on his finger." This information is gleaned from p. 97 of the Introduction and p. 231 of the text of "Mumenta Guild-hallae Londoniensis, edited by H. T. Riley, Esq., barrister-at-law."

The above is an anonymous compilation, probably by a Scotchman ; but we think that the son of John Mercer* who made the attack on Scarborough was John, Sir Andrew being another son ; see also note by the Seannachie to the line

"While Scottish ships triumphant sweep the seas."—*J. S.*

C.

This was Sir Andrew *Murray*, the fourth personage in the pedigree of the Duke of Athole, taken notice of by Sir Bernard Burke, Ulster King-at-Arms, in his valuable "Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire." London : Harrison, 59, Pall Mall, Bookseller to the Queen, A.D. 1860. In the same Peerage it is also seen that Robert *Murray* Nairne, second son of Lord Nairne (Lord William Murray, fourth son of John, first Marquis of Athole), marries *Jean, heiress of the Mercers* of Aldie, and, falling at Culloden, left a son, by assumption of his mother's surname, *Colonel MERCER*, who marries Margaret *Murray*, heiress of Pit-

* "Sir John Philpot (1378) fitted out a fleet at his own expense to repress the piracies (?) of a free-booter named *John Mercer*, a Scot, who was in consequence taken with 15 Spanish ships which he commanded, and all their rich plunder." Herbert, p. 332, vol. i. "Grocer's Company."

kerthlie ; their eldest daughter Jane married George (Elphinstone) Viscount Keith, and left a daughter, Margaret, present Baroness Keith and Nairne in her own right, and Countess Flahault de la Billardrie.

Sir Andrew Mercer was named after his uncle Sir Andrew Murray. For many ages the *Murrays* and the *Mercers*, owing perhaps to their common *Flemish* origin, have been connected. They came from a country distinguished for its attachment to the principles of civil and religious liberty, which evidently handed down to posterity much of the learning and *commerce* of the Romans, preserved by them from the ravages of the barbarian invaders of the Roman empire, with the same success with which they had from the days of Cæsar resisted the Roman arms* until they became their allies.

Cæsar notices the skill of these northern nations in ship-building; and we have collateral proof in history that the Hanseatic League early became the rivals of Genoa and of Venice, as at a still more early period, from the necessity of the times, they had poured forth those fleets which under the name of Northmen and Norman ravaged the coasts of Europe.

But that the Flemings in particular had early turned their attention to commerce we have proof of in the fact of their commercial settlements in Berwick, Perth, Sandwich in Kent; and in Canterbury there is one street in particular named from the silk goods which they imported from the East, La Mercerie, while not only did Edward the Third greatly encourage them, as also the kings of Scotland at an earlier period, but we have from them our various guilds, of which the Guildhall, London, is a standing and eminent proof.

With commerce came wealth, literary leisure, and *liberty*; but the Mercers, though they loved liberty, loved it for the sake of all ; to use the Latin expression, *pro bono publico*, Kings, Lords, and Commons each to have their due. When the power of either unduly predominates, *it ceases to be liberty!* For instance, when a *clique*,† cabal, clutch all the power they can, deny the respect and *share of power* due to those *above*, while they trample on those

* Cæsar *De bello Gallico*, lib. iii. 9—14, A.C. 56.

† Of which John Bright would be the organ ?

below : such a state of things is not liberty, and it becomes the duty of all of gentle birth, though not powerful in means, and of the rest of the masses, who, though intelligent, are equally wanting in power, to stand by the monarchy.

The Flemings, particularly in the northern part of the Netherlands, from the earliest ages were noted for their resistance to the exorbitant claims of the Church ; and the *Mercers* have always been among the earliest reformers, whether on the Continent, in Scotland, or in Ireland, one good proof of which assertion can be seen in "*The Moderate Cavalier*," among the Grenville collection in the British Museum, by Captain William Mercer.

D.

Copy of a letter from Captain George Henry Preble, U.S., sloop-of-war *St. Louis*, to Christopher Prebble, Esq., formerly of Higham Abbey, Kent.

Lisbon, Portugal, Oct. 1, 1863.

MY DEAR SIR,

On arrival here on the 28th ult., I received, forwarded through the Navy Department at Washington, your, to me, very interesting letter of the 11th July.

I have little doubt that our families are connected. Abraham Preble, the ancestor of all of the name in America, emigrated with the "*Men of Kent*," a company so called in 1636, in the ship *Hercules*, John Witherby, master, and settled first in Scituate, Mass., where, in 1642, he married Judith, daughter of Elder Nathaniel Tilden. N. Tilden emigrated from Tenterden in Kent, near about the same time, with seven children and seven servants, and who at his death left his daughter Judith Preble a cow, while to his other daughters he only left a shilling. To his eldest son he left his stone house in Tenterden, in Kent, and I surmise it is with the descendants of this son your branch of the family have intermarried.²⁵ The Tildens in America are still an influential

²⁵ This is a misconception. John Tilden, of "Ifield Court," Kent, married the step-daughter of John Preble, Esq., of Manor House, Shorne, and of Higham Abbey, Kent ; but she was not a Prebble.

family,²⁶ and you will find notice of their ancestors' emigration in "Berry's County Genealogy," and "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage."

Abraham Prebble on his marriage removed to York, in the then province, now state, of Maine, and from thence his descendants have scattered over New England, the West, and California. He had a son John, who may have been your father's uncle or great-uncle. The name is often repeated in the genealogy of the family in America. Abraham Prebble, senior, died in 1663. He held 13 offices of trust at the date of his death, and was evidently an important man in the infant colony. His youngest son Benjamin, who died at a very advanced age, was my great-grandfather. Jedediah Prebble, or Preble, his grandson, the son of Benjamin, was my grandfather. He was a brigadier-general of provincial troops under George III., and present at the taking of Quebec by Wolfe, in 1759. My father, Captain Enoch Preble, was a brother of Commander Edward Preble, who has been styled the father of the American navy, and who, the Pope said, had done more to hinder the Barbary powers than all the rest of Christendom had ever done. My father was born in 1763, and died in 1842. Thus you see that I am the fifth in descent from the emigrant "Pilgrim Father" (allowing him to have been 21 years old at the time), after a lapse of 247, which give 49½ years to a generation, 25 years being the usual allowance. I have collected the genealogy of the Prebles in America; but it is not yet printed. It may be ere long, and when it is, I will remember your request. I have names and some particulars of 800 descendants of the Emigrant. Any light you can throw upon our English origin will be gladly received. Mr. George Prebble thought the name was of Norman origin, and originally *Previle*. I should like in particular to know if anything is distinctly known about it, and to have copies of any arms used by either *Previlles* or *Prebles*, and whether there is any similarity. I have heard somewhere that a Prebble was warden of some March or county in England during the wars of the Roses, and had for a coat-of-arms a white and red rose. If you address your letter without any great delay to Commander G. H. Preble, U.S.N., commanding U.S.N. sloop *St. Louis*, Lisbon, Portugal, care of the Hon. James E. Harvey, U.S. Minister, it will not fail to reach me. Or if at any time you address me at Cambridge, Mass., U.S. America, where I have my residence, the letter will be forwarded by Mrs. Preble to wherever I may be. Please present my remembrances and those of my son to Mr. George Prebble. I should mention that my grandfather was the first to drop the double-b in the spelling of the name, now universally and without exception the custom in the United States. * * * * What I have written is from

²⁶ Two branches of this family are still in Kent: Sir John Tilden, and John Tilden, Esq., of Ifield Court.

memory, as my notes are all at home. * * * * Cannot you send me your card photograph in return for the one I enclose ?

I am, very truly yours,
GEORGE HENRY PREBLE.

Christopher Prebble, Esq.,
&c. &c. &c.

This letter is interesting for many reasons ; it shows that attachment to Britain, as the land of one's fathers, which every man should cherish, as the link which binds him to the irrevo-cable past ; *in short, with the history of the world!* America, through Britain ; Britain, through Rome ; Rome, through Greece and Troy up to Phoenicia ; and thence to those touching stories of the infancy of the world which yet appeal to our better feeling with all the pathos of patriarchal relation ; “*The old man of whom ye spake, is he yet alive ?*” So the American commander loves to talk of old “ Abraham Prebble” and his 800 descendants, which number must be only a fraction of those of whom he knows not. We have lately heard of like interest expressed by American officers ; Captain Tilden, U.S.N., in visiting my cousin, John Tilden, of “ Ifield Court ;” and General Mercer, whose seat in America he had named “ Aldie,” after the home of his fathers in Perthshire. Such incidents speak of a day when Britain and America will be more closely allied.

The Francillons, now represented by the eminent barrister of that name at Cheltenham, and by Captain Francillon, R.N., are descended from the Prebbles. As illustrating the subject of names, the origin of Francillon is curious. In the wars of the League, Henry IV. of Navarre saw a small Frenchman making almost superhuman attempts whilst *engaged with the ROMANS.* “*Voyez,*” said the King, “*le Francillon !*” Hence the name of the French silk manufacturer whose descendant afterwards was well known in Spitalfields.

E.

“Killed in action.” This young and talented officer was cut off in the prime of life. The high character which he had formed may be gathered from the following extracts from official and other documents :—

Major General Sir Duncan Cameron's official Despatch to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for War:—

Head Quarters, Camp Rangiriri,
November 26th, 1863.

I deeply deplore, in common with all under my command, the loss the Service has sustained, in the death of Captain Mercer, Commanding Royal Artillery in the Colony, who died from the effects of the wound he received, whilst gallantly leading his men to the assault on the redoubt. I regard it as a serious misfortune, that the force should be deprived, at such a moment, of the services of so able and energetic an Officer.

The following statement is from the "Summary of the Southern Cross," for November, 1863:—

We have already given some particulars of Captain Mercer's services as an officer, and we now append the following:—Captain Mercer arrived in Auckland in the early part of March, 1861, and immediately afterwards proceeded to Taranaki, where he was engaged in the affair at the Waitara. He arrived there, it appears, on the first day of the truce—viz., the 11th of March; and when hostilities were resumed on the 15th, he was present at the advanced post at Huieranga, opposite Te Aire, and opened fire with his Armstrong guns for the first time in New Zealand. The action lasted three days, and during that time fifteen of our men were either killed or wounded, including Lieut. McNaughten, nephew of General Sir William McNaughten, the well-known Indian officer, who was killed at the disastrous retreat at Cabul. Captain Mercer was afterwards employed in Auckland, and placed his battery at the disposal of the Government to assist in making the Great South Road from Drury to the Queen's Redoubt, and in that work he was engaged up to July, 1862. At the same time he had command of the garrison of Auckland during the absence of General Cameron at Drury. In March of this year, Captain Mercer proceeded to Taranaki, with his battery, who were mounted to act as light cavalry, with a view to operations at Tataramaika. After the murders at Taranaki, he accompanied the force that moved down to open communication with a detachment stationed at the Tataramaika block. About the 15th May this year, he was in charge of the artillery acting as light cavalry for the withdrawal of the Waitara detachment, and he was with the troops at the attack on Waitekeri. On the removal of the troops from Taranaki to Auckland he came up to head quarters, and proceeded to the front about the 8th July. He superintended the building of the whole of the gunboats built here for the navigation of the Waikato, and in all matters concerning



the practice of his profession he proved himself a most invaluable officer. His private virtues are known and appreciated by his friends ; and we need only give a solitary proof of this, by mentioning that the Committee of the Auckland Auxiliary Bible Society, of which Captain Mercer was a member, and who joined the funeral procession yesterday, have entered the following resolution on the books of the Society and forwarded a copy of it to Mrs. Mercer :—“ *Referring to the late Captain Mercer, R.A., who received his death-wound during the late conflict between Her Majesty's troops and the Waikato Rebels at Rangiriri. The Committee of the Auckland Auxiliary Bible Society feel a mournful pleasure in recording their esteem for the memory of that gallant officer and their appreciation of the zealous services he has rendered to the Society as an active member of the Committee. The Committee also express the deep sympathy they feel with Mrs. Mercer in her bereavement, and earnestly pray that the promises and consolations of that Book, in the spread of which her late husband took so great an interest, may be her succour in this the hour of her trial.* ”

Mrs. Mercer with her children proceeds by the Himalaya to England, and went on board that vessel last evening. We need hardly say on behalf of the people of Auckland that she carries with her their sympathy for her in her bereaved state.

Extract from the BOY'S OWN MAGAZINE, 11th year, vol. v. No. 30, p. 477 :—

Since that time we learn from the *London Gazette* that the Victoria Cross has been awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel McNeill, of the 107th Regiment ; to Assistant-Surgeons Temple and Manley, and Lieutenant Picquard, of the Royal Artillery ; and to Ensign Down and Drummer Stagpoole, of the 57th Regiment, in recognition of gallant deeds done in New Zealand. The bestowal of the Cross on Assistant-Surgeon Temple, R.A., is a tardy act of justice ; it was awarded to him by the unanimous voice of the army for humanely exposing his life to almost certain destruction in hurrying to the assistance of Captain Mercer, R.A., who was mortally wounded. This occurred during the attack on Rangiriri, the great pa or stronghold of the Maoris on the banks of the Waikato river, about sixty miles from Auckland. The Taranaki war began in 1860, and was carried on with various success till 1862, when it was supposed to be over. There was no truce or peace concluded with the enemy, but the settlers indulged the hope that they might now live in peace. On the 4th of May, 1863, they were roused from this state of false security by the report that two officers and eight men had been fired upon by an ambuscade, and all, with one exception, killed ; this act was denounced as murder, but we must remember that they were marching through the enemy's country with arms in their hands, and were thus almost inviting their fate. General Cameron wished to

take precautions against such attacks, but the governor assured him that there was no danger, as the war was over. Then came the abandonment of the Waitura, the disputed territory, and, a month later, the battle of Kuitikara, in which twenty-five Maoris were slain. After this the province of Auckland became the seat of war. The governor issued a proclamation denouncing all the natives as rebels who should not surrender their arms and take the oath of allegiance within a week ; the result was such as might have been expected ; the Maoris cleared out with all their valuables, and fell back into the interior. Their forces were concentrated at Pokewu, or the Queen's Redoubt, a place thirty-five miles south of Auckland, close to the Waikato river. Our troops advanced against them, and a battle was fought at Roheroa, a mountainous ridge, two miles south of Pokewu, where the insurgents had encamped and fortified their position with a series of rifle pits, from which they opened a heavy fire on their assailants as they ascended the steep declivity. The regiment opposed to them consisted of young recruits who had never been under fire before ; for a moment they hesitated, and all might have been lost, if General Cameron had not rushed forward in front waving his riding-whip, and cheering them on to victory. He thus saved the character of a young battalion. The Maoris dispersed, and found refuge in the neighbouring swamps, leaving twenty-two killed on the field of battle. Their loss was not great, considering that the force opposed to them was as three to one. On the same day a Maori ambuscade attacked an escort under the command of Captain King, of the 18th Royal Irish, in the neighbourhood of the Queen's Redoubt ; our men, who were straggling along the road, smoking and chatting, with their rifles uncapped, resisted as much as they could, and escaped with the loss of four men, twelve rifles, and the carts and horses left on the field. If any of the Maoris fell, their bodies were removed ; no traces of them were to be found the following day.

Redoubts were then erected for the protection of Auckland ; the bush was cut down for hundreds of yards on either side of the Great South Road ; a Commissariat Transport Corps of nearly 1,000 men was raised ; four regiments of Militia were recruited, chiefly in Australia and the South ; the strength of the Imperial forces was raised to 10,000 men ; including local corps, we had about 25,000 men under arms to cope with the enemy, who have never been able to bring more than 600 men into the field. If the country had been open, the war would soon have been brought to a close ; but our men had to pass unfordable streams and to force their way through the bush. The enemy fell back to a place called Mere Mere, situated on a rising ground on the Waikato, about nine miles from the Queen's Redoubt. The enemy's only artillery consisted of two old ship's guns loaded with tenpenny nails ; but the place was believed to be impregnable, and our men remained in camp there for

three months. It was the old story of Sir Richard Strahan and the Earl of Chatham. General Cameron was longing to be at them, but he had to wait for Sir George Grey, and Sir George Grey was waiting for nobody knows what. The expense of supporting such an army in the field is enormous ; three millions of money have already been expended. At length our troops advanced to attack the Maori stronghold ; the preparations were as elaborate as Uncle Toby's for the siege of Dunkirk, and something brilliant would doubtless have occurred if the Maoris had been a little less impatient. They evacuated Mere Mere, and fell back to Rangiriri, where they had a strong pa on the summit of a rising ground situated midway between the Waikato and an inland lake. If we were too slow at Mere Mere, we were a little too fast at Rangiriri ; because the former was a place of no great strength, it was inferred that the latter was the same. A rush was made ; the outer works were carried ; but the attacking party fell back on finding themselves confronted by other works of still greater strength. To retreat was to lose the prestige of our arms, and to invite the neutral tribes to rebellion. The place must be taken at all hazards ; a second rush was attempted ; the officers advanced in front, and cheered on the men, but the men refused to stir. The General then turned to the fifty artillerymen who accompanied him, and, armed with swords and revolvers, they rushed forward, stopped to breathe for a moment in a gully, and reached the parapet, which some of them mounted. They were led by Captain Mercer, R.A., one of those brave, gallant, God-fearing men who are an honour to the service and to humanity itself. He had a presentiment that he would fall, but he was prepared to die ; like Havelock, he had been preparing for death for years, and it did not take him by surprise. A Maori bullet struck him in the jaw, carrying away the lower part of the face ; he rolled backwards on the ground mortally wounded. His party was repulsed. Was there a man there brave enough to advance to his assistance ? He must hold his life cheap ; he will have to pass through the double fire of the enemy. But what sacrifice will our soldiers not make for an officer they love ? First one soldier advances, and then another, and another, but it was only to meet with speedy death. It was at this moment that William Temple, an assistant-surgeon of the Royal Artillery, learned that his friend Mercer stood in need of his aid. Without balancing chances, or hesitating for a moment, he went where duty called —it might be to death, it could not be to dishonour. He reached the spot so fatal to the others ; the most sanguine could scarcely indulge the hope that he could escape. For a moment he was enveloped in smoke ; every eye was strained till it cleared away. A sort of sigh of relief rose from many a breast as he was seen by Mercer's side, doing all that could be done to alleviate his sufferings. From instinct more than from intention, he stooped when exposed to the fire of the enemy, and

thus their bullets passed harmlessly over his head. General Cameron, who had witnessed his devotion to duty, only expressed the desire of the whole army in recommending him for the Cross of Honour which was awarded to him in the *Gazette* of the 23rd of September, 1864.

Extract from the Summary of the SOUTHERN CROSS, for the month of November :—

FUNERAL OF THE LATE CAPTAINS MERCER AND PHELPS.

If any demonstration were required to show the respect which the public feel for the memories of these deceased officers, and their sympathy for those who have been bereaved by the sad chances of war, it certainly was afforded yesterday by the presence and demeanour of the people of Auckland on the day of mourning. It was the day on which the bodies of two gallant officers, but recently in the pride of health, strength, and youth, were to be laid beneath the sod. The bright summer sun which shone out and made all nature appear in holiday attire was certainly sufficient to cause an elasticity of feeling not easily removed ; but we venture to say that notwithstanding that, there were few who took part in the funeral procession of yesterday, or who contented themselves with being spectators of it, who did not feel deep regret, be it ever so transient, for the loss of the gallant men whose lives had been sacrificed, thus early, for the good of their country. It required, we say, no gloomy associations of weather to arouse the sympathies of our nature, but on the contrary the brilliancy of the day caused a more striking contrast between the living and the dead. Shall Rangiriri ever be forgotten in our age either as a victory to our arms, or as calling up mournful associations of the loss of valuable lives, be the compensation ever so great ! We think not ; and the best test we could have of the probability of its not being erased from our memories was had yesterday in the crowds of citizens who attended the funeral of two of its heroes who had passed over the path of honour to the grave. On no previous occasion have we seen Albert Barracks more crowded. There was a thorough suspension of business during the time of the funeral, and even in the morning of the day many of the shops had half their shutters up. Both Houses of Legislature adjourned some time before the hour appointed for the funeral, and we believe there were but few who, if not present, did not experience a feeling of sorrow for the unfortunate fate of the deceased. At four o'clock the procession started from the barrack-yard with the body of Captain Phelps, followed by a large crowd of persons ; and on reaching the late residence of Captain Mercer, they took up the remains of that lamented gentleman. The procession was in the following order :—

Firing Party, consisting of 100 men, composed of corps in Auckland garrison, and from Otahuhu, in command of Capt. Saunders and Lieut. Harrington.

Bands of the 14th and 50th Regiments, and 'Curaçoa.' The bodies of the deceased, drawn on gun-carriages with six horses, and driven by ten men of the Royal Artillery.

PALL BEARERS.

For Capt. Mercer.	For Capt. Phelps.
Capt. Glover, 43rd Regt.	Capt. Minister, 50th Regt.
„ Vereker, 12th „	„ Whitbread, 65th „
Major Turner, 65th „	„ Minnett, 14th „
„ Paul, Brigade Major.	Assistant-Surgeon Corbery (recently 14th Regt.)

CHIEF MOURNERS.

Lieut. Rait, R.A., having with him | Dr. Carte, M.B., 2nd Bat. 14th two of Capt. Mercer's children. | Regt.

The non-commissioned officers and men of the Royal Artillery, and the 2nd Battalion of the 14th Regiment.

The Cavalry Volunteers.

Regular Troops, consisting of men of the 14th, 50th, 65th and 70th.

Officers of the Militia.

Officers of the Regular Troops.

Officers of the Royal Navy.

Members of the General Assembly.

His Excellency the Governor, and General Galloway and Captain Hamilton, of the 'Esk.'

Private Citizens, &c. &c. &c.

The following were present, besides those whose names are mentioned above:—Captain Olivey, of the 12th Regt.; Lieut. Corrie, of the 18th Regt.; Lieut.-Colonel Nelson, of the 40th Regt.; Captain Nowlan, of the 50th Regt.; Lieut. Leake, and Captain Thompson, of the 70th Regt.; DeBurgh Adams, Esq., Purveyor to the Forces; Dr. Gibb, senior, Medical Officer; Dr. M'Shane; Dr. Henry, Assistant-Surgeon 43rd Regt.; Dr. O'Connell; J. O. Hamley, Esq., D.S.S.; H. Potter, Esq., D.S.S.; Henry Stanley Jones, Esq., C.B., D.C.G.; J. F. Moore, Esq., A.C.G.

On reaching the cemetery, the body of Capt. Mercer was carried to the grave by six men of the Royal Artillery, and that of Capt. Phelps by six men of the 14th Regt. The Rev. John Kinder, Garrison Chaplain, officiated at the grave, and the burial service, which was impressive, having been concluded, three volleys were fired, as is customary, and the funeral ceremony was over.

We may mention here that the coffins in which the bodies of the

deceased were contained were both covered with rich black silk velvet, and the inscriptions were as follows :—

Capt. Henry Mercer,
C. Battery, 4th Brigade,
R.A.,
Died 25th November, 1863,
Of wounds received in action,
Aged 38 years.

Capt. John Shaw Phelps,
2nd Battalion, 14th Regiment,
Died 25th November, 1863,
Of wounds received in action,
Aged 33 years.

Captain Mercer was buried to the left of Lieutenant Murphy ; Captain Phelps in the next grave ; and the bodies interred here now are in the following order :—Captain Phelps, Captain Mercer, Lieutenant Murphy, Mr. Watkin, R.N., Commodore Burnett, the Chief Boatswain of the *Orpheus*, and Captain Swift.

(*For private circulation.*)

Extract from a letter written by the Mother-in-law of the late Captain M* * * * *, R.A.

“*Gerston, Feb. 20, 1864.*

“Thank you for your letter of tenderest sympathy for us, and for our beloved suffering child. You have anticipated all her inexpressible sorrow, and the gratitude we owe to our God for the hope full of immortality with which our Christian soldier closed his most useful and God-glorifying life. Our loved one was taken from the din and tumult of war to that Saviour who loved him with an everlasting love, and he gloried in bearing the cross for the love *he* bore *Him* in return. The great fight at Rangiriri took place on the 20th November, when our loved Henry was shot through both cheeks—the jaws were shattered, the teeth gone, and the tongue so torn, that about one-third had to be cut off. What a sight, dear friend, to meet the eye of a devotedly attached wife ! My darling had to take a journey of nearly 40 miles over roads, of the roughness of which we can form no idea—and she is in a delicate state of health.

“Our dearest Henry had lain in the trench for four and a half hours,

his pillow a dead body—covered with the dead and dying—and the life-blood flowing from his fearful wound. He was at last dragged out by main force, after a trench had been dug to reach him. When my poor darling saw him (the good Bishop Selwyn came to tell her of his arrival) he was quite cold and apparently lifeless, but she rubbed the hands and feet, and applied a hot water bottle, when his energies returned, and he wrote (he never spoke again) ‘ Peace—perfect peace in Jesus ; he hath done all things well, my life is given me for a prey.’ The last words he wrote were, ‘ Perfect peace—deep as a river.’ To the last he continued to possess this blessed peace, being sensible to the last. His beloved wife nursed him four days ; he then fell asleep in Jesus, as gently as a child, without one struggle.”



F.

It has appeared to the Irish Sennachy to make the "Mercer Chronicle" more complete by inserting extracts from the public papers of all events connected with the name of Mercer, such as Births, Deaths, and Marriages, the due entry of which in books devoted to the purpose may often be essentially necessary for elucidating questions of property. The utility of such a design will be manifest when the nature of the Imperial Service is remembered, and the few extracts herewith supplied will show that different members of the same family may be born in different places, and die in foreign lands. Extracts cut from the papers of such events, with the name and date of such newspapers, and pasted in books kept for the purpose, may often supply, if not *legal testimony*, at least the means of getting at documents of the sort; while these extracts, reprinted in a collective form, and vouched for by the signature and rank of heads of families, will be doubtless useful to their children.

(*From the "LONDON TIMES," January 4, 1848.*)

Plymouth, Jan. 1.

The remains of Colonel Commandant Mercer, Royal Marines, who expired on the 24th ult., were this day removed from his quarters at the Royal Marine Barracks to the Royal William Victualling-yard, Stonehouse, preparatory to shipment by steamer, *via* Dublin, for the family burial-ground at Lisburn, in the north of Ireland. Prior to removal, the Commander-in-Chief of the Western District, General Murray, issued an order requiring the attendance of all officers in garrison off duty at the time.

Unfortunately the weather was inauspicious, and the imposing ceremony was interrupted by frequent showers, which rendered the roads very unsuitable for the occasion. Colonel Mercer is the first commandant in Stonehouse who has died in command, and, supposing them all here, his remains were entitled to be attended by the full complement of the division—2,280 men. In consequence, however, of the state of the weather, and the short distance to be marched, only 400 were present. They were headed by Adjutant Jackson, and soon after the appointed hour, 2 o'clock, they commenced their mournful duty by marching through the main entrance, six abreast, with arms reversed,

in slow time, to the music of a funeral dirge admirably executed by the united bands of the 14th and 81st Regiments. All the officers and sergeant-majors wore silk hatbands and scarfs, having on their left arms bands of crape, with which material the colours of the division were also encased. The party were commanded and followed by Colonel Waring, the field-officer of the week. Next the two assistant bands, came that belonging to the Royal Marines—their drums muffled, and instruments covered with crape. On entering Durnford-street they commenced the “Dead March in Saul.”

Two clergymen, with Drs. Yonge and Millar, and Messrs. Elliott, Dyer, and Radford, the undertakers, preceded the body, which was in a plain black coffin, covered by a velvet pall, over which was thrown a Union Jack, with the undress cap and sword of the deceased. The pall-bearers were Captain Sir Henry J. Leeke, R.N.; Captain Superintendent Toup Nicholas, Royal William Victualling-yard; Colonel Barlow, 14th Regiment; Colonel Creagh, 81st Regiment; and four other officers of similar rank. The Colonel’s body was drawn on a 12-pounder gun-carriage by four black horses, with plumes and velvet cloths, led by Artillerymen, and followed by his charger bearing his boots and spurs.

Three of the Colonel’s sons were chief mourners; one of them is an officer of the 94th Regiment, one in the Royal Artillery, and the third in the Royal Marines. Immediately after came a number of officers of all ranks, in full uniform, on foot, and in reversed order; among them were Major-General the Hon. Henry Murray, Colonel J. Oldfield (Royal Engineers), Brigade-Major Captain Nelson, Mr. West (Flag-Lieutenant to Port-Admiral Sir John West), Mr. Woolcombe (Flag-Lieutenant to Admiral-Superintendent Sir John Louis), Major Watson, Captain Protheroe, Adjutant M'Donald and officers of the 14th Regiment, Major Creagh and officers of the 81st Regiment, officers of Artillery and Royal Engineers, Captain Toby, Captain Wright, Adjutant Polkinghorne and officers of Royal Marines; Naval officers, on full and half-pay, including Admiral Maurice, Admiral Arthur, and others, &c. Several carriages closed the procession.

At the Royal William Victualling-yard arrangements were made by Mr. J. W. Armstrong, master-attendant. At the main gate, and on board all the Government and merchant vessels of the establishment colours were hoisted half-mast high. After entering the yard, the Royal Marines opened into two columns to receive the body, which was drawn to the grand store on the eastern side of Melville-square, where an apartment suitably fitted, and hung with the national flags, was prepared for its reception. Here it was deposited and will continue (under charge of a corporal’s guard) until Monday morning, when it will be conveyed by the Royal Marine barge to the British and Irish Steam-packet Company’s steamer *City of Limerick*, Captain John

Moppett, and thus will conclude the last duties of the Stonehouse division of Royal Marines towards the remains of their honoured chief.

(From the "LONDON NAVAL AND MILITARY GAZETTE," January 8, 1848.)

In our *Gazette* of the 25th Dec. we gave a brief notice of Col. Edward Smyth Mercer, Commandant of the Plymouth Division of R^t. Marines, who died, beloved and highly respected, in the Commandant's Quarters, on the morning of the 24th, of an attack of influenza, succeeding to chronic dysentery.

Col. Mercer was the youngest son of John Mercer, Esq., of "Hill-hall Court," County Down. He entered the Service in March, 1797, under the auspices of his patron, the most noble the Marquis of Hertford. He embarked in October of the same year, on board the *Triumph*, and served in that ship till Dec., 1804. In Sept., 1805, Lieut. Mercer embarked on board the *Topaze*, and served in her till June, 1811. During this period the *Topaze*, off Corfu, engaged two French frigates, each of heavier metal, and carrying a greater complement of men.

Lieut. Mercer was in command of a boat, when the boats of the *Topaze* cut out the felucca *Jean Jubert*, of eight guns, and also a gun-boat, when the felucca was boarded and carried; her Captain and crew being driven into the sea. The gunboat continued firing her heavy guns till Lieut. Mercer's boat was within fifty yards' distance, when she was carried by that officer's boat, single-handed. Lieut. Mercer was also engaged in numerous boat affairs on the coast of Albania.

In 1810 the *Topaze* accompanied an expedition from Gibraltar, under the command of Lord Blaney. The expedition had been destined for the attack of Malaga, but the troops were landed to the westward of that place, and ordered to the assault of a strong Martello Tower, called Ferangola Castle. During the assault H.M.S. *Rodney* arrived from Gibraltar, with despatches for the Commander-in-Chief.

The despatches were sent on board the *Topaze*, to be forwarded to Lord Blaney. Lieut. Mercer volunteered to carry these despatches to the shore, and did so under a heavy fire from the castle. Lieut. Mercer then carried a message from Capt. Hope, R.N., relative to the safety of the *Rodney*'s anchorage, under a continuous fire from the castle, and from other guns which the enemy had brought to bear on the *Rodney*.

The dates of the commissions borne by the gallant deceased are as follows:—Sec. Lieut., 25th March, 1797; First Lieut., 17th July, 1803; Capt., 22nd Sept., 1810; Bt.-Maj., 22nd July, 1830; Lieut.-Col., 10th July, 1837; Col., 12th Feb., 1842; Col. Commandant, 9th Nov., 1846.

The remains of this gallant officer were removed from his official residence at Stonehouse Barracks last Saturday afternoon, drawn on a gun-carriage by four horses, and attended by 600 rank and file of the

Rl. Marine Corps, the heads of departments, officers of the United Service, &c., to the Royal William Victualling-yard, preparatory to the body being removed on board one of the Dublin steamers for conveyance to Ireland ; the friends of the deceased having determined to have his remains interred in the family burial-ground at Lisburn, in the north of Ireland. In addition to the splendid band of the Rl. Marines, the bands of the 14th and 81st Regts. attended, and performed the "Dead March" with beautiful effect.

(*From the "PATRICIAN," August, 1847.*)

MARRIED.—Mercer, Arthur Hill Hasted, Esq., 60th King's Royal Rifles, son of Colonel Mercer, R.M., Commandant, Plymouth, to Elizabeth Anne, daughter of the late Major Robert Hutchinson Ord, R.A., K.H., a Deputy-Lieutenant for the county of Essex, 10th July.

(*From the "BRITISH INDIAN GENTLEMAN'S GAZETTE," May 1, 1848.*)

BIRTH.—At Kurrachee, April 20th, the lady of A. H. H. Mercer, Esq., 60th King's Royal Rifles, of a daughter.

(*From the "UNITED SERVICE GAZETTE," January 30, 1849.*)

BIRTH.—At Sea, on board the *Minerva*, off the island of Ceylon, on the 10th instant, the lady of Edward Smyth Mercer, Esq., 94th Regt., of a son.

(*From the "MADRAS CRESCENT," February 21, 1849.*)

DEATH.—On the 30th Dec., 1848, at Hill Hall, Co. Down, Ireland, aged 86 years, Arthur Hill, eldest surviving son of John Mercer, Esq., of "Hill Hall Court," Co. Down, and brother of the late Colonel E. S. Mercer, Commandant of Royal Marines.

(*From the "NAVAL AND MILITARY GAZETTE," March 24, 1849.*)

94th—Lieut. Edward Smyth Mercer to be Capt., without p., v. Henry Nicholls, who retires upon full pay ; Ens. Whiteford John Bell to be Lieut., v. Mercer ; Henry Jameson, Gent., to be Ens., v. Bell.

(*From the "UNITED SERVICE GAZETTE," May 29, 1849.*)

DEATH.—At Cannanore, on the 21st of May, Henry Beauchamp, the infant son of Captain Edward Smyth Mercer, H.M. 94th Regt., aged 4 months and 11 days.

(*From the "BELFAST NEWS LETTER," July 19, 1852.*)

DEATH.—On Saturday morning, 17th instant, at his father's residence, "Farm Lodge," Lurgan, James M. Mercer, aged 27 years. His remains will be removed for interment, in Lurgan, on Tuesday (to-morrow), the 20th instant, at twelve o'clock.

(*From the "TEIGNMOUTH GAZETTE," September 9, 1850.*)

MARRIED.—August 28, at Torre Church, Henry Mercer, Esq., Royal Artillery, son of the late Col. Mercer, to Charlotte Amelia, second daughter of George Atkinson, Esq., Thornton, Torquay.

(*From the "MORNING CHRONICLE," January 26, 1855.*)

Windsor, Jan. 25.

The dinner party yesterday included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, Lady Fanny Howard, the Hon. Mary Seymour, the Rev. Frederick Anson, and *Captain Mercer* (officer commanding 94th Regiment).

(*From the "TIMES," March 20, 1861.*)

94th Foot.—Edward Smyth Mercer, gent., to be Ensign, by purchase, vice Buller, promoted.

(*From the "TIMES," January 13, 1866.*)

There is now in progress at Savannah, Georgia, a strange sort of military trial, which, if it results in the conviction of the prisoner before the court, will establish some new doctrines in military law. General Hugh W. Mercer, of the Confederate army, a West Point officer of great distinction, and grandson of the General Mercer of American Revolutionary fame, has been arraigned before a court of United States officers on the charge of murder. When General Sherman advanced through Georgia, General Mercer commanded the defences of Savannah. He had in his ranks a battalion of Confederate troops, composed of men formerly United States soldiers, but who, being taken prisoners, had

enlisted into the Confederate service. These men availed themselves of every occasion to desert back to the United States army, and seven of them being captured while deserting at Savannah, they were tried by court-martial, sentenced to be shot, and General Mercer approving the sentence, they were executed. The charge against the general is that these seven men were prisoners of war in the hands of the Confederates, and that he murdered them in violation of the usages of war. General Mercer presented as part of his defence a copy of the terms of capitulation of General Johnston to General Sherman, under which he surrendered, and urged that the matters laid in the charge occurred before that capitulation. He also protested against his arrest, imprisonment, and trial, as in direct violation of his parole. The prosecution having given evidence proving in part the circumstances attending the death of the seven soldiers, procured a postponement of the trial to secure additional testimony. After adjourning for several days the Judge-Advocate reported that he could find no one in Savannah who would testify against General Mercer, and the Commission sent to Washington for instructions whether the trial shall proceed in the absence of this necessary testimony, but no answer has yet been returned, the Government having adopted the novel plan of advertising for testimony, without, as yet, procuring any. In this unusual state of affairs—unusual, certainly, for an American military court, where everything necessary to prove the case for the prosecution is generally taken for granted—the trial remains in abeyance, and General Mercer is closely confined in Fort Pulaski.

This General Mercer claims to descend from the "Mercers" of Aldie.

E. S. MERCER,

Feb. 14th, 1866.—I. S.

Lt.-Colonel.

(From the "NORTHERN WHIG," January 15, 1866.)

MERCER.—January 13, at his brother's residence, Farm Lodge, Lurgan, Hugh Mercer, Esq., of Laurel Vale. [His remains will be removed for interment to the First Presbyterian Church Burying-ground, Lurgan, to-morrow (Tuesday) morning, 16th inst., at half-past ten o'clock.]

G.

It is also thought that the entry of unsettled claims of intestate or other estates will prove useful.

“Whereas by an Order of the High Court of Chancery made in a cause, ‘Noakes v. Stowe,’ it is referred to John Ord, Esq., one of the masters of the said Court, to inquire who is or are the heir or heirs, *ex parte paternā*, of James Mercer, the testator in the said order named (who, to the year 1762, resided many years in John’s Court, East Smithfield, Baker, and from that time in Assembly Row, Mile End Old Town, in the parish of Stepney, where he died in February, 1763, leaving a widow named Sarah Mercer, who died in the month of August, 1779), and also to inquire whether any and what child or children of the testator’s uncle, Thomas Urry, was or were living, or had any and what issue living at the time of the death of the said testator’s widow, and also whether any and what child or children of the testator’s aunt, Millicent Butter, was or were living, or had any and what issue living at the death of the said testator’s widow; and also whether any and what child or children of the testator’s uncle, Leonard Urry, were living, or had any and what issue living at the death of the said testator’s widow; and also whether any and what child or children of the testator’s aunt, Sarah Cooling, was or were living, or had any and what issue living at the death of the said testator’s widow; and also whether any and what child or children of the testator’s uncle, Nicholas Urry, was or were living, or had any and what issue living at the death of the said testator’s widow; and whether any and what child or children of Stephen Noakes, in the said order named, was or were, or had any and what issue, living at the death of the said testator’s widow; and also whether Cornelius Kepworth and Ann, his wife, Elizabeth Radvil, and Mary Gill, legatees in the said testator’s will named, or any, either, or which of them were living at the death of the said testator’s widow, and whether they, or either, and which of them are since dead, and if dead, who is or are his, her, or their personal representative or representatives, and also whether any and what child or children of William Gill, in the said will named, were living, or had any and what issue, living at the death of the said testator’s widow. Any person or persons claiming to be the heir, or heirs *ex parte paternā*, of the said testator, or to be the child or children, or issue of such child or children, of any of the above persons named, living at the time aforesaid, or the representative or representatives of the above-named legatees, or any other person or persons claiming to be entitled to a share of the clear money arising from the sale of the said testator’s real estates in question, in the said cause, are forthwith to come in before the said master, at his Chambers, in Southampton Buildings, in Chancery Lane, London, and prove his, her, or their claims.” (1797)

Pursuant to a decree of the High Court of Chancery, made in a cause, "Tarbuck *v.* Greenall," and other causes, all persons claiming to be the Heir or Heirs at Law of the following persons, &c.

Israel Mercer, late of Parr, in the county of Lancaster, watchmaker, who died in the month of October, 1828, are to come in and establish such claims before the said Master, &c., &c. (1844)

Besides the above, there appear the names of

Thomas Mercer,

James , , died intestate in Australia.

Information concerning whom can be procured by applying to Wm. Culmer, No. 6, Holland Street, Clapham Road, S., London.

H.

The following inscriptions on tablets, tombs, or stones, are also recorded as possessing interest:—

In the church of St. Mary, Axbridge, in Somersetshire, under the communion table:—

"Here lyeth the body of Thomas Warren Mercer,* and twice Maior of this towne, who deceased the 27th day of November, Anno Domini, 1636."

In the church of St. Nicholas, Aberdeen, on a marble, let† in the

* Too late we are informed that this individual was a mercer, and not Thomas Warren Mercer; but that, like the tomb in the "Mercer's Hall," it should have been Thomas Warren, mercer. Whether or no we retain the inscription to prove our argument, that formerly the occupation Mercer, or Merchant, was so esteemed as to warrant its inscription on a tablet; but in reading the stone at Axbridge we did not detect any comma between the supposed name and the word mercer.

† This stone is placed in the middle of the wall; is about six feet from the ground, and in the north wall of *Collison's* aisle. In this aisle were two effigies known by tradition to represent the Provost Collison and his wife; the effigies are now in windows Nos. 1 and 2 from the right of the north side of the west church, looking from the inside, where they are placed. In Collison aisle, or close to it, was doubtless the vault of the Collisons. John Collison was Provost in A.D. 1521; and again, probably

wall on the east side of the north entrance, called also Collison's aisle, is inscribed :—

“Near this place are deposited the remains of James Mercer, Esqre.* of Auchnacant, and of Catherine Douglas, his wife. Happy in their union here, they cherished the hope of happiness hereafter.

James Mercer was born 27th Feb., 1731, O.S., and died 27th Nov., 1801.

Mrs. Mercer, was born 8th April, 1733, and died 3rd Jany., 1802.

They were married 13th Sept., 1763.

In affectionate remembrance of a much-beloved brother and sister, this stone is placed here by Sylvester Douglas, Lord Glenbervie, A.D. 1805.”

In the North Transept of the Cathedral at Exeter—

Sacred

To the Memory

of

General Alexander Mercer,
Colonel Commandant in the Corps
of Royal Engineers,

Who died at Exmouth on the 10th November, 1816,
aged 77 years.

The mortal remains are deposited
near this Tablet.

In the Cathedral, Lisburn, Ireland—

Edward Smyth Mercer, Esq., youngest Son of John Mercer, Esq., of
“Hill Hall Court.” Died December 24th, 1847.

He entered the Royal Marines in 1797, and for upwards of half a century and during the wars of that period served his King and country with zeal, gallantry, and honour. He died while Colonel Commandant of the Plymouth Division. His parting advice to his four sons, also engaged in the service of their country, was to live honourable as soldiers, united as brothers, and sincere as Christians. His last days were those of the Christian soldier, and his best epitaph is engraved on the sorrowing hearts of his widow and children.

his son, in 1594. Mercer's vault is close by, under a large stone in the pathway, about 12 paces to the east of the *new* entry in Collison's aisle, where formerly was no entry, but in the church-plan of 1790 the door was opposite Mercer's vault. Since then the church has been partially rebuilt. The effigies were formerly in Collison's aisle. Mr. Robert Mercer, Regent of King's College, Aberdeen, 1570, Parsons of Banchory Devnick, and Prebend, married Elizabeth Collison.

* He was also a poet. An edition *selected* (which we regret) has been published by Lord Glenbervie.

In a stone sarcophagus in Southern Cemetery, Hants—

Here lieth the Body of Major-General

Robert Mercer,

Royal Marines. Died Sept. 17, 1861.

“Blessed are they that sleep in the Lord.”

Captain Bernard Mercer, of the Downshire branch of the Mercer family, is buried, we are told, in Exeter, but no copy of the record has yet been sent to the compiler.

As these inscriptions tend greatly to exemplify family history, it is trusted that copies of such may be sent to the address of the “Irish Sennachy,” care of Hugh Mercer, Esq., Beech Park, near Lurgan, Ireland, noted “Mercer Chronicle.”

The following inscriptions reached us too late for insertion above:—

Sacred to the Memory of Ellen,¹ the amiable and affectionate Wife of Edward Smyth Mercer, Esq., Captain in the 94th Regt.,

who died at Cannanore, in the East Indies,

On the 1st June, 1852, aged 26 years. Also of three Children, whose names are inscribed on the tablet in Lisburn Cathedral.

This tablet is erected in the Unitarian Church of Belfast.

John Mercer Wright, Captain in H.M. 82nd Regt. of Foot, who fell at the assault of Fort Erie, in America, after having been in various engagements in the Peninsula war under his Grace the Duke of Wellington. Killed at the age of 26.

This gentleman was nephew to Colonel Edward Smyth Mercer, R.M.; and the inscription is on a full-sized portrait of Captain Wright.

The following, we hear, is proposed:—

Sacred to the Memory

of

Hugh Mercer, Esquire, of Laurel Vale,

Eldest son of Henry Mercer, Esq., formerly of Hillsborough,
and

Elizabeth, heiress of James MacDowall, Esq., of Ballymaccateer.

His end was peace.

Born A.D. 1793; died January 13th, 1866.

“Remote from man, with God he passed the days,
Prayer all his business, all his pleasure praise.”

¹ This lady's name was Eleanor, and the mistake is due to those who took on themselves to remove the original tablet.

I.

The following curious documents, of which 32 folio volumes exist in MSS. in Trinity College, being records as to some of the Mercer Family, are inserted in the "Chronicle" so as to give us a picture of the times, A.D. 1641.

They are inserted not to prejudice us against the Irish people, but against the *Roman* system, which could justify such atrocities; they point out the way in which an Earthly Priesthood can work to compass their ends!

The Irish as a people have many splendid traits of character; and we have not met a people on earth with whom we could fraternize, or love more, than with this people. As a proof of my assertion, the English of every age have become IRISH, and that, too, without descending to be *Roman*!

The Priests have seen this, and hence the endeavour to stir up their *poor* flocks against the *English*; *to keep them known as English* even after centuries of residence in the Emerald Isle. Mark Dr. Moore's advice to his friend Edward Lake, "go back to England;" no English must remain in Ireland, their enterprise, their cleanliness, their comfortable houses, all the result of superior intelligence, contrast badly with Irish apathy, Irish dirt, and Irish cabins. Some of the Irish will think. This operation the Priests fear; some of the Irish will remember the ancient days when the Irish did not live in *cabins* and *scrape an acquaintance with the pig*; this memory the Priests dread, because in those days there were *no English*, and it proves that the Irish if left to themselves can be educated, and comfortable and clean, *but then they would not be ignorant, and would not believe the Priest!*

What more monstrous than to believe that English prosperity is the reason of Irish misery? But now that the enlightenment of the times does not allow of a Dr. Moore to hint at a cutting of throats by insurrection, we are threatened with a *Fenian Invasion*!!! and some people would say the Priests have nothing to do with it! Stuff! if not the Priests, where are the *Jesuits*?

Rome is *Infallible*; she cannot alter; the blood of St. Januarius must liquefy *once a year* at Naples; dolls, &c., must be hung up at the shrine of the "Queen of Heaven" at Lyons; and

Priests must mumble in a dead language, in Latin; and as proved by the redoubtable Fenian Invasion she will, if able, still cut throats, still control the opinions of mankind.

But will the quick-witted Irish be humbugged by a Butt, who, when he wants to sit in Parliament for *Tipperary*, insults the Geraldines, the Butlers and the Desmonds, by calling them **Anglo-ROMANS**?

IRELAND.

262. Trinity College, Dublin. Folio volumes of depositions, Rebellion of 1641. *Idem*, fol. 261.

Deposition of Edward Lake, Alderman of Dublin,* Nov. 1641.

The said examinant saith, that about July last he being then in London, and usually resorting to the house of Thomas Hicks, an apothecary in Fleet Street, where one *Dr. Moore* lodged, the examinant and his wife being at supper with the said Thomas Hicks, the said Dr. Moore being then likewise at supper with them, asked him why he did not live in England, seeing that he had given over trading, to which the examinant answered, that he chose rather to live in Ireland, because the little means he had was there; whereupon the said Dr. Moore replied, that it was much to be feared that there would be only cutting of throats in Ireland ere it were long.

(Signed) EDW. LAKE.

Coram me, Ja. Ware.

Elizabeth Lake confirms this statement on oath.

IRELAND.

MSS. in Trinity College, Dublin. No. 2951.

The information of John Mercer of Gobragh,† in Killwarlin, in the County Down, taken by Symond Richardson.‡

No. I.

Who saith that he with his wife and Mary the wife of Richard Tom-

* These depositions of the Lakes' seem to have been deemed so important by the Irish Government of that day, that several copies were taken by the Board of Commissioners. It is to be remarked that this outbreak is familiarly called *Roger Moore's rebellion*.

† Gobragh, also spelt Gabberagh, or Gabrah, now Cabrah, a townland of the Marquis of Downshire. The Marquis is Baron Hill of *Kilwarlin*, an ancient "Toparchy."

‡ We know by a letter from Mr. William Waring to Mr. Symond Richardson, that the latter was Deputy Sheriff of Carrickfergus.

linson, were present when Bryan Lesku MacMahon, with several others of the Irish, did on the 24th day of March, 1641, in a little lough near unto *Drumbat*,* in the county of Monaghan, drown 25 men, women and children, and that this examinant with his wife and three children, should have been drowned with them, but that he purchased their lives with a sum of money. And that the next day there were 25 more men drowned in the lough, but he did not see it, nor knows the persons that did it; he further saith that one Ardal Baddy MacMahon did help to drown them in the lough, and keep them together, and as this examinant is informed, the said Bryan MacMahon now lives at Castletown; but where Ardal lives he knoweth not, and in witness hereunto set his hand, 4th Jan. 1652.

(Signed) RICHARD MERCER.

Sept. 24, 1653.

No. II.

And this informant further informeth that Patrick Bacho Macawdall, was one of the chiefs who did help to drive about 50 of the English together in a company, with more in the town of *Ballirush*, in the county of Monaghan, and did deliver them all unto the rest of the Irish company as aforesaid to be drowned, but that some of them were released for money, which they gave as a ransom for their lives; and others escaped in all about the number of 15.

No. III.

Mary the wife of the said John Mercer, of the age of about three and fifty years, agreeth in all points with the information of her said husband aforesaid, *and they both inform me*, that there was Lambert Had-dock and his wife and 3 children, John Rason and *Hector Rason* his brother, Anne Gerlick, widow, who had her husband killed, before this drowning, by the said Lesku MacMahon and others, and her three children, John Kitchen's wife (who was formerly killed himself by the Irish, but by whom they know not), and her two children, Anne Bennett and her two children, Ellen Gerlick, and others whom they cannot remember, these being all in the number of 25 that were drowned as aforesaid.

(Signed in this place),

GEORGE RAWDON. 2952.

No. IV.

And John Mercer the said informant further informeth (who lived last All-hollandtide at *Raby* Wood, in County Louth), that there was one

* The names of persons and of places in italics, are those of which the old handwriting is difficult to decipher.

Ardel McColl, McHugh, McMahon, and with others came to his house and took his wife into an inner room in the said house, to examine her for money, telling her also that if they could get none they would hang her husband, upon which she gave unto him nineteen shillings and six-pence, and afterwards they went into the bed where this informant then lay in, being sick, and two of the said company lifted him off his bed, by reason he could not rise himself because of his weakness, and from thence they took him to a ladder in the said house, where a rope was tied thereunto about his neck, and a cloth drawn over his face, and his hands tied behind his back, and they were going immediately to throw him off the said ladder to hang him, but that the wife of one Bryan O'Quin (a captain then in the county of Monaghan, whose name he knoweth not, being then in the said company), told unto this informant's wife that she would save his life for that time, and which she did; and further saith not.

The above is docketed "Mercer's information, true copy."

•
(Signed)

C. LOTTNER,

28. 9. 66.

Assistant Librarian.

OBSERVATIONS.—This deposition is that of John Mercer, but it is signed by Richard Mercer; it is said to be taken by Symond Richardson, who was Deputy Sheriff of Carrickfergus; but is countersigned not by him, but by Sir George Rawdon. The deposition states John Mercer to be of Cabragh, Kilwardin, but at the time of taking paragraph No. 4 he is described (who lived last Allhollandtide at *Raby* Wood, County Louth). These circumstances lead to a few reflections on the nature of the document contained in the College library.

Paragraphs 1 and 2 appear in one handwriting, of an older date from paragraphs 3 and 4. Paragraphs 3 and 4 appear of different dates from the former two, and from each other, though the two last may have been written by the same hand at different times.

The endorsement "Mercer's deposition," and the note of time (apparently Sep. 24, 1653), is evidently in a more decided handwriting, written by authority, and possibly in that of one arranging the depositions.

We know that Richard was the son of John, and a child at the time, and possibly he signed for his father, then ill and suffering from the wreck of his fortune in the rebellion, when the

first part of the deposition, or Nos. 1 and 2 paragraphs, were taken from his deposition.

The fact that Symond Richardson does not countersign paragraph No. 1 leaves room to suppose that this document is not the original deposition of John Mercer, but a copy in 1652.

We give the following extracts from the Rental of the Marquis of Hertford's Estates, then belonging to Lord Conway, to illustrate the history of one branch of the Mercer family, that of the times, and of the rates at which they farmed the land. A nobleman obtains for his services a large tract of the country in fee simple; his object is to settle on this with as many of his relations, friends, followers and others whom he can allure with the hope of an easy life on easy terms. The land cost him *nothing*, and he can afford to give them highly *advantageous* terms, fully conscious, if as *prescient* as some of the surrounding noblemen, that all these tenants once *squatted* will *increase* in numbers, and that with their numbers, the *value* of the land will increase likewise; particularly when the tenants have built houses and homesteads!

It is a Royal grant which gives the nobleman, then Sir Fulke CONWAY,* possession; nor are we aware of any obligation to the Crown, but to keep the restless Irish of that day in order; a condition which for their own safety the settlers must have undertaken. On the other hand, he lives among them; they are not reduced to *one dead level*, he has his friends and neighbours at his board like the old Barons of England, who maintained feudal rights, and even like the Irish chieftains, who, whatever else their faults, never ignored *their kindred or their duties in this respect*; he hunted there, he sported there, he spent his money there, and looked after the interests of his tenants, *procuring this commission and that place*. Reciprocal duties were performed and reciprocal support received. The Crown was supported by

* Afterwards Lord Conway, who brought over settlers from Lancashire.

a nobleman, who was, in the figurative language of the East, “*a pillar of the State*,” and he by a loving tenantry. Conservatism was the order of the day. So strong, we are informed, in one family had become the feeling of attachment from such a regime, that though inhabiting a fort held under a neighbouring nobleman, as a younger branch, this branch could not forget the hereditary attachments, but divided their votes for the county, giving a half to either party. This was a special case; it was one which should have called for increased security from those to whom the *real interests* of the estate were confided: but unhappily it was a minority; even then there had been no *action*, but that an agent was *scorned* in his attempt to enrich himself. Then came misunderstanding, and a family remove from a fort which they had held upwards of a century, leaving, we are told, their curse upon the place. Surely such an event could not have taken place had tenure of a longer standing existed; at all events, Englishmen will understand why the Irish stand up so stoutly for a “Tenant-Right.”

(Copy)

DERRIAGHY PARISH.

Rental.	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
A.D. 1677—Captain ROBERT THELWALL, for MERCER'S...	19	2	0	2	8	9
	duty	0	0	8		
				£2	9	5
„ BERNARD MERCER ' 178	2	0	...	4	10	0
„ Received of Bernard and John Mercer, {				duty	0	6
Feb. 14th {						
				£4	16	0
„ Lieutenant THOMAS CONWAY, ½ Carloghrin				2	10	0
	duty	0	7			
				£2	17	0
„ * HENRY MERCER, Drumenduff, part of { 25	0	0	...	1	9	2
Ballindery {				duty	0	2
				£1	11	10

* This name Henry, which first appears in the Irish branch of the *Mercer* family, is taken, we believe, from Sir Henry Mervyn, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, who lies buried in Westminster, and who was father-in-law to Captain William Mercer. He was probably a son of William, by Miss Conray.—*J.S.*

(Copy)

DERRIAGHY PARISH.

Rental.		a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
1705—JOHN MERCER,	Castle Robin	188	3	0	2	5	0
					duty	0	3
Do.	for Mushett's	78	1	17	2	10	0
Do.	for Huntington's				1	13	0
Do.	for Joh. Willis's Mountain	219	0	0	5	0	0
	John Martin, part do.				1	12	6
					duty	0	6
							0
		485	4	17	£13	12	2

(Copy)

Rental.		a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
1704—Henry Mercer		17	1	24	2	6	0
		35	2	10	0	4	0
					duty	0	4
							0
					£2	10	0
,, Robert Whiteside		21	0	5	3	8	3
					duty	0	0
							10
					£3	9	1

The above is a true copy from the Rental referred to.

(Signed)

W. GARDINER.

Then we have an extract of a rental of which I have not the date; but the entries are as follow:—

(Copy)

		a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
106 new—John Mercer,	Castle Robin	188	3	0	4	5	0
Do.	Mushett's				2	10	0
Do.	Huntingdon's	78	1	7	1	13	0
Do.	John Martin Willis's Mountain				9	10	0
					£17	18	0

Nov. 1st, 1706—Received of John Mercer						3	10	0
Dec. 4th, 1706—Received of John Mercer, by his son Whiteside,								
pt. Castle Robin						2	10	0
Dec. 30th, 1706—Received of John Mercer						1	15	0
Jan. 28th, —Received of Richard and Henry Mercer, full of								
Willis's Mountain						9	10	0
Feb. 1st, —Received of John Mercer, by his son Whiteside, full						0	13	0
of Castle Robin								
						£17	18	0

In these rentals we find Scotch and English names mixed; Stewarts, Colvilles, Mercers, with Conways, Thelwalls and Whitesides. As far as we have seen, the Mercers farmed upwards of 750 acres under Lord Conway. Where a tenant pays for land named after another, it is either because the tenant in question has left the country, or if still present, the land is that which he may have given as a portion with a daughter. Captain William Mercer, the poet, says he married 4 fine wives.

A Murray, Mervyn, Conway and a Duff.

We know that Miss Mervyn was a daughter of Sir Henry Mervyn, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons; but we do not discover Miss Conway's relation to Lieut. Conway.

To those who may wish to know more of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, we may remark that they will find all the information of its foundation in a pamphlet entitled—

An Act
For regulating the Hospital founded
by
Mary Mercer, spinster.



Dublin :
Printed by G. Lowther, 58, Grafton Street.
1853.

This lady descended from Robert Mercer.

In the Cathedral Register of Lisburn we find the following:—

Churchwardens for the parish of Maghergall, A.D. 1666,
Gabriel Elliot (*sic*), }
Thomas Singleton, } Churchwardens.

Surveyors for the same period,
Robert Mercer, of "Brookhill,"
 George Vanis,
 Thomas Boyd.

The above is on the fly-leaf of the Registry of Baptisms of Lisburn Cathedral. A true copy.

(Signed)

ROBERT LINDSAY,

Curate of the Cathedral.

Lisburn, Oct. 6th, 1866.

N.B.—Brook-hill, it is to be remarked, in former days was the seat of the Conways; and, from Captain William Mercer's marriage with Miss Conway, we are inclined to conclude that Robert was a son of the poet.

In regard to Miss Mary Mercer's father, we have the following entry in the books of Trinity College:—

28th July, 1663.

Georgius Mersor (or Mercer) Pensionarius—ffilius Roberti Mersor—
 Natus Annos Octo decim—Natus Darby in comitatu Lancastriæ.
 Educatus Crossbiæ in eodem comitatu.

Here we have a good instance, in those days, of variation in spelling a name, for the same George is recorded in a few months as a Scholar, afterwards as Fellow, and eventually as Vice-Provost of the College in the Calendar—

A.D. 1664, George Mercer, scholar.

And again—

A.D. 1670, George Mercer, Fellow and Vice-Provost.

Deprived of his fellowship by Archbishop Marsh, A.D. 1687, because fellows were then not allowed to be married; he married Maria Barry, sister to Paul Barry, of the family of Lord Santry. It is presumed that he either loved his wife too much, or had too great a regard to truth to deny his wife, as was commonly, in one way or another, done. Many stories of *wives* of college dignitaries living with their husbands under their *maiden* names are yet told, and Mr. Leney, a gentleman of great research, and

constantly visiting Dublin, told myself and others an amusing story of a college dignitary at a public dinner disavowing his wife rather than run the chance of risking his preferment!

It would of course be a difficult undertaking to follow the wanderings of the soldier-poet Captain William; but in the birthplace of George, A.D. 1645, at Darby in Lancashire, we have an approximating confirmation of the account left me by my father, Colonel Edward Smyth Mercer, that though we were descended from one of the first families in Scotland, we were connected with the Singletons, a considerable family of Boroughbridge in Yorkshire. Colonel Mercer also told me that our ancestors were large shipowners. This I believe to have been some years before the great Irish rebellion of A.D. 1641; but of course the misfortunes through which our house then passed has enabled it to retain but few records. While the above extract as to George Mercer would seem to point to Liverpool, the following extracts from the College Register would intimate the port of Downpatrick:—

1685.—Jacopus Mercer, Siz—ffilius Alexandri Mercer, Medecinæ Doctoris, de Downpatrick.

Annos natus sex deci—natus Downpatrick—educatus Lisburniæ sub Magistro Harvey.

(Signed) St. Geo. Ashe.

1707, June 6.—Mercer, Jno., Pens.—fil. Alexandri Med. et Pharmacopæ. An—ag—16—Nat. in Monâ Insulâ. Educ. Dunpatk (Downpatrick) sub Dr. Kelly.

Jno. Walmesley.

A true copy, extracted from the books of Trinity College, Dublin.

(Signed) CHARLES MILLER.

26 Sept., 1866.

It is thought above, that one good trace of the poet has been found; his first wife and all her family, as I read it, he says, were put to the sword; but it is difficult at this distance of time to follow the wanderings, and that, too, in a troublous time, of a soldier who fought in so many fields, and married so many wives: also another trace at note 46, “Mary,” &c., written since this work went to press.

K.

WINDSOR BARRACKS,
January 25th, 1855.

MY DEAREST MOTHER,

To you, to whom I owe so much more than most sons, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of sitting down and giving you an account of my dining with Her Majesty. The honour is so much the greater, inasmuch as I hear that the Queen supervises every card of invitation ; and, in general, I hear that no one under the rank of Field Officer is supposed to dine at the Castle.

The report came down that our regiment was coming here, and when dining at Lord Carrington's on the Tuesday, I was only observing to his lordship, who, by the bye, had been very kind to me, that the arrival of the head quarters would cut off all chance of the honour of being a guest at the Castle ; when, lo, on my coming home, there lay on the table a card of invitation, as follows :—

“ The Lord Steward is commanded by Her Majesty to invite Captain * * * * * Officer Commanding the 94th Regiment, to Dinner on Wednesday, the 24th January, at eight o'clock.

“ Windsor Castle, Jany. 23rd, 1855.”

To which I replied as below :—

“ Captain * * * * * 94th Regiment, presents his compliments to the Lord Steward, and will do himself the honour of waiting on Her Majesty on Wednesday, the 24th instant, at 8 o'clock.

“ To the Right Honorable the Earl Spencer, &c., Lord Steward.”

Before eight o'clock I arrived, the first guest, and was fortunate in finding in the arrival of the second a gentleman resident in the Castle of the name of Anson, a descendant of the great seaman, the Lord Anson, who was very obliging and communicative. The next arrival was the Very Reverend the Dean of Windsor, nephew of the Duke of Wellington. An agreeable conversation was sustained for a long time, for Lord Aberdeen having arrived, was closeted with Her Majesty for nearly three hours.*

At length the doors were opened ; we three, at the suggestion of the Dean, retiring from the fire to the opposite side of the room, faced about, while the lords in waiting quickly forming in line with us, Her Majesty swept in ; we all severally bowing as the Queen, His Royal Highness the Prince Albert, and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent passed ; the three personages graciously acknowledging our salutations.

Her Majesty gave her hand to the Baron Stackmaer ; His Royal

* This was the night preceding the change of Ministry.

Highness Prince Albert took in the Duchess of Kent, and the several lords in waiting successively paired off, while I, casting my eyes at the Master of Ceremonies, wishing that the Reverend Frederick Anson should precede me, and receiving a nod offered my arm to a maid of honour, the Honourable Mary Seymour, who, singularly enough, proved to be a member of the noble family of the patron, under whom we have held for the last two hundred years, the Marquis of Hertford. This lady proved not only a pleasant companion but very obliging, inasmuch as she furnished me with the names of all the guests.

You and I, my dear mother, have heard much of Court life, but I assure you that, observant as I was, I could not but admire the easy grace, not to say quiet majesty, with which the Queen glided through the room, noticing as she passed each of her guests.

We were ushered first into the blue drawing-room. The Queen having arrived we passed through a magnificent crimson saloon into the dining-room, which was indeed worthy of the Majesty of Britain. It seemed as though one had been suddenly transported into a fairy land ; the imposing loftiness of the saloon, the magnificent mirrors nearly measuring the entire altitude of that room, and reflecting gold plate which one would suppose had exhausted the treasures of California ; the imposing *tout ensemble* of that noble chamber, which was one blaze of red and gold, were quite sufficient to upset the equanimity of men in general. But the soldier, my dear mother, as you are aware, marching from the east to the west, one day faring sumptuously in the palace of the Governors General of India, and the next foraging in the Crimea and starving on a crust, is not so easily discomposed, and I felt perfectly at liberty to observe ; and if I remember one circumstance more than another it was, that though the decorum due to majesty was strictly observed, every one seemed perfectly at their ease. Nor can I praise too highly the noble and yet gentlemanly bearing of the Prince, or the unobtrusive politeness of the lords in waiting to a lowly stranger like myself.

You know what a devout admirer of the fair sex I am, and when Her Majesty and the ladies retired I was too happy to have the opportunity of releasing the train of my fair charge from the leg of the chair under which it had become entangled !

Before retiring, the Queen was pleased to honour me by several queries, all of which showed the interest Her Majesty felt in her soldiery. Her Majesty asked how long we had been home, how the men stood the change of climate, and what pleased me most, as showing her natural solicitude for the sick, *Her Majesty inquired particularly as to the men in hospital*. You are therefore, my dear mother, at perfect liberty to show my letter to our military and naval friends at Plymouth, who, I am sure, will feel delighted, that though the Queen, on account of affairs of State, necessitated herself to do that at which the meanest of her subjects in general demurs, to delay her dinner much beyond the

usual period, yet had Her Majesty a thought for her soldiers, and could inquire concerning their welfare at the mouth of so private an individual as, my dear mother,

Your affectionate Son,

* * * * *

L.

INQUISITIONES OF SCOTLAND.*

MERCER—MERSAR.

Christian Names.	No. of Entry.	Christian Names.	No. of Entry.
Alexander	5786	Jacobus de Salin	8296
Besseta	226, 227, 228	Jeanna	5543, 5585
Georgius	1769, 2001	Joannes de Melginsh	5544
Do de Snoock . . .	7568	“ de Potterhill	6691
Grisilida	5585	Laurentius	5544
Gulielmus	6691	“ de Meikleour	5786
Henricus de Balleave . . .	183	Malcolmus, rector de Crief .	2063
Jacobus	5079	Ninianus	7568
“ de Adie Miles, baronettus .	5543	Robertus	183, 2063, 8296
“ de Meikleour, dominus .	5585	“ de Balleive .	183, 226, 227

23rd, A.D. 1593.

Joannes (John) Marsar, hæres masculus Laurentii Mersar de Monclour, patris, in terres de Litillfour comprehendentibus terras de Hiltoun ; Terras de Milnetoun cum molendino et terris molendinariis terras bruerias vulgo . . . cum decimis infra dominium Dunkeldensem J. £28 12s. 8d. feudifirmæ terris de Jakstoun A. E. 26s. 8d. N. E. £5 6s. 8d.

April 9th, A.D. 1603.

Laurentius Mersar de Clevaige hæres Jacobi Mersar de Newtoun patris in tertia parte terrarum et villæ de Eister Dumbullis in parochiâ de Forgandenny A. E. 6s. 8d. N. E. 33s. 4d. Anno redditu 5in. de terris de Rossie in warrantum annui redditus 5in. Concessi Laurento Bruce de Cultmalindeis per Alexandrum Dominum Elphingstoun de dicta tertia parte terrarum de Dumbullis. III. 17.

Feb. 6th, A.D. 1605.

Willielmus Forbes de Cossinde hæres Roberti Mersar, filii fratris attavæ Willielmus Forbes de Cossinde, hæres Roberti Mersar de Balleive

* Linen Hall Library, Belfast.

fratris attaviæ: Willielmus Forbes de Cossinde, hæres Henrici Mersar de Balleive, nepotis fratris attaviæ. III.

No. 226. Feb. 18th, A.D. 1606.

Alexander McBrek burgensis burgi de Perth hæres Roberti Merser de Balleiff avunculi magni, hoc est fratris germani quondam Bessetæ (Bessie !) Merser aviæ ex parte patris Alexandri McBrek. IV. 32.

No. 227. Feb. 18th, A.D. 1606.

Alexander McBrek burgensis burgi de Perth hæres Roberti Merser junioris de Balleif filii legitimi quondam Roberti Merser senioris de Balleif magni avunculi, hoc est fratris germani quondam Bessetæ Merser aviæ ex parte patris Alexandri McBrek. IV. 32

No. 228. Feb. 18th, A.D. 1606.

Alexander McBrek, burgensis burgi de Perth, hæres Elizabethæ alias Bessie Merser aviæ. IV. 32.

No. 1103. July, A.D. 1613.

Laurentius Merser hæris Joannis Merser de Melginsche patris in terris de Littilhour continentibus terras de Hiltoun terras de Milnetoun cum molendino et terris molendinariis et terris brueriis vulgo nunupatio Brewlands et astricta multura terrarum de Hillhoil et cum decimis prædictarum terrarum inclusis infra dominum Dunkeldensi E. £28 12s. 8d. feudifermæ, tertia parte villæ et terrarum de Kyntulloche molendini et pisationis super aqua de Earne in parochiâ de Dumbarny prope potem de Earne E. 18 in id feudifermæ. F. 84.

No. 1104. Oct. 28th, A.D. 1613.

Jacobus Merser de Clavage hæres Jacopi Merser de Newtoun avi in quintâ parte terrarum de Tibbermallo in domino de Methven A. E. 15s. N. E. £3.

No. 1769. Nov. 22nd, A.D. 1630.

Elizabetha Gardyne sponsa Georgii Merser in Auld Aberdeen hæres portionaria Magistri Thomæ Gardyne ministre verbi Dei apud ecclesiam de Tarves, patris. XII. 165.

No. 2063. June 26th, A.D. 1634.

Robertus Merser hæres Magistri Malcomi Merser rectoris de Crief, patris.

No. 454. May 4th, A.D. 1636.

Joannes Merser de Melginche hæres Laurentii Merser de Melginche, patris in molendino granorum de Wester-Banchrie cum Brewlands terris molendini fullonis vulgo Walk-Milnelands E. £10 0s. Quartâ parte terrarum de wester Banchrie E. £5 16s. terris de Littilhour viz terris de Haltoun (vel Hiltoun) E. 16m. &c. Terris de Milnetoun cum molen-

dino E. 14m. &c. Terris brueriis nuncupatis. Brewlandis E. 13s. 4d. Astricta multura terrarum de Hill Hoill; decimis prædictarum terrarum Littilhour in Domino de Dunkeld E. in integro de Littilhour, &c. £28 12s. 8d. XV. 298.

No. 668. April 7th, A.D. 1658.

James Mercer of Meiklehour heir mail of tailzie and provisione of Alexander Mercer of Kinaird his brother in the lands of Kinaird within the parochine of Forgoundeny, O. E. 5. m. N. E. 20. m. XXV. 52.

No. 5079. Maii 22nd, A.D. 1667.

Jacobus Merser hæres Magistri Jacopi Mercer ministri apud Clunie, patris. XXIX. 293.

No. 5543. June 15th, A.D. 1672.

Jeanna (Jane) Mercer hæres talliæ et provisionis Domini Jacopi Mercer de Adie militis baronetti, patris. XXXI. 47.

No. 5544. June 19th, A.D. 1672.

Laurentius Mercer hæres Joannis Mercer de Melginche, patris. XXXI. 243.

No. 5585. Nov. 26th, A.D. 1672.

Grisilida Mercer filia natu Maxima Domini Jacopi Mercer hæres talliæ et provisionis Jeannæ Mercer filliæ natu maximæ hæredis deservitæ et retornataæ dicto Domino Jacopo Mercer de Meikleour sororis germanæ. XXXI. 109.

No. 5786. Jany. 27th, A.D. 1675.

Christina Primrose filia unigenita Magistri Jacopi Primrose Clerici Sacreti Concilii hæres Alexandri Mercer filii Laurentii Mercer de Meikleour Avunculi. XXXII. 91.

No. 6691. Jany. 2nd, A.D. 1686.

Gulielmus Mercer hæres Joannis Mercer de Potterhill patris. XXXVIII. 271.

No. 8296. October, A.D. 1692.

Jacopus Mercer de Salin hæres Roberti Mercer fratris. XLIII. 75.

No. 7568. March 2nd, A.D. 1695.

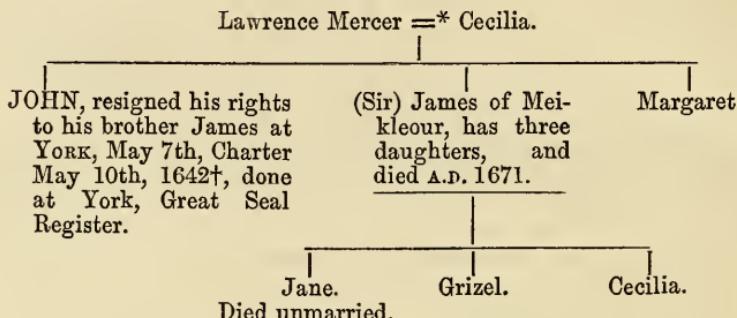
Ninianus Mercer hæres Georgii Mercer de Snoock partis. XLIV. 436.

No. 1036. July 29th, A.D. 1698.

Laurentius Mercer de Melginche hæres Joannis Mercer de Melginch patris in terris de Little hour continentibus terres de Hilltoun et terras de Milnetoun cum Molendino et terris brueriis Vulgo Vocatis Brewland et cum astrictis multrio terrarum de Hallhoil in domiuo de Dunkeld E. £28 12s. 8d. feudifera. XLVII. 498.

Following on this we have seen it stated thus:—

Aldie Family, Sir Lawrence Mercer, *about* ? 1607 or 1608, marries firstly Cecilia, daughter of James, 1st Lord Culross, and has issue genealogically stated.



Sir Lawrence Mercer, married secondly Christian Bruce, Lady Colville, Jany. 22nd, 1622.

* This sign = signifies marriage.

† This was just six years after the deed (No. 454), with which it probably has some connection ; at all events we know that John Mercer was in Ireland in 1641 if not before, and that before that the family had connection with Lancashire. (See Note 32 in the text.) At the period of the accession of James the First of England to the English throne, numberless Scots left their Country with their monarch, some from loyalty to their King, some from the love of adventure, and some from the hope of improving their condition ; several of the Mercers left at the same time, and it is worthy of remark as confirming my argument, that in Liverpool, a town which has perhaps increased in prosperity more than any other town of Britain, there are seventy families of the name of Mercer. In stating this, however, we must bear in mind that in the northern counties of England, thus confirming *our idea of Berwick in the ancient kingdom of Northumbria being the first resort of the Flemings, &c.*, we find so late as Edward I., Edward II., and Edward III., mention of Hugo (Hugh) le Mercer and William le Mercer, as see Rot. Original, in *Curia Scaccarii*, pp. 119, 152, 168, and Rot. *Hundredorum*, p. 356.

In the History of London too, by Northouck, reading as we do of the jealousy of foreigners there displayed, as we know was the case in Kent, which caused the transplanting of the Flemish settlers to the western marshes of England adjoining Wales, we think it the more probable that the name and family of Mercer rather spread from the kingdom of Northumbria southwards, as at a far more remote period in history it had travelled from the waning kingdom of Edwin to Perth, the then capital

ARMS OF GRÆME REID MERCER, ESQ., OF GORTHY.

On MERCER'S scutcheon, in a field of gold,
 Three crosses-patée gules in chief behold ;
 In base an azure star ; a fesse gules too,
 Charged with three bezants, glittering to view ;
 “Crux Christi nostra”—graven on the scroll—
 “Corona” forms the legend ’neath the whole.
 In gold and bezants the great wealth we trace
 Of him who held the High Thesaurer's place ;
 By crosses-patée, three in chief, 'tis meant
 To designate from BARCLAY the descent ;
 In MURRAY'S silver star, to azure turned,
 The TULLYBARDINE lineage is discerned ;
 The fesse—of ANDREW (first of Scotland's three)—
 The baldric marks of naval chieftainrie ;
 The crest—a stork's head couped—in beak maintains
 A water-serpent writhing in death's pains,
 The stork, with heralds, filial love designs,
 The snake success with victory combines ;
 While our ancestral slogan—“Ye Gret Pule,”—
 Of Scarborough's capture tells, and England's duele.
 Then MERCERS, bear ye bravely—do no shame,
 Nor blot the scutcheon of our ancient name ;
 For “sycker 'tis as onie thing on erthe,”
 “The MERCERS aye are aulder than auld Pearth.”
 Strive, sternly strive, till called to lay life down,
 Through GOD'S good grace, to make
 CHRIST'S CROSS OUR CROWN.

While giving the above from Græme Reid Mercer, Esq., we may observe that the passage “Scuta tantum lectissimis colo-

of flourishing Scotland. It is worthy of remark that SERLE MERCER, six times Lord Mayor of London, as sheriff, had spelled his name Mercier.—I. S.

The following extract is from Græme Reid Mercer, Esq., of Gorthy, who gives it from the Calendar of State Papers from 1625-6, page 40 :—
 “8th June, 1625. Return of twenty-seven men levied at Lancaster for H.M. service, and delivered to Edward Bolton, *Robert Mercer*, and Richard Tallock, to be conducted to *Ireland* Liverpool.” This gentleman adds, “This Robert Mercer appears to have located himself near Lisburn, County Antrim, but I should look for his descendants in County Carlow.”—I.S.

ribus distinquent," of Tacitus, par. 6 *Germania*, Valpy Edit., would seem to indicate the Germans as the authors of the emblazoned shield.—*I. S.*

M

In a work of this kind we can hardly pass unnoticed a pamphlet purporting to be from the pen of David Laing, Esq., V.P.S.A. Scot.,* containing some account of Lieut.-Colonel William Mercer, author of "Angliae Speculum; or England's Looking-glass. London, 1646." "From the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, Scotland, 1860." This pamphlet is written in a depreciatory style, hardly consistent with the cool and patient progress of an antiquarian. At page 3 he states that he has no faculty for pursuing *genealogical* studies, while at page 19 he gives a genealogical tree. His object, whether or no, seems to be to make Captain William "sone lawful to Mr. Johnne Mercer, minister at Slaynes." On very doubtful authority, that of two initials, W. M., he dubs him a beggar! He mistakes military "command" for "military employment;" in p. 6 makes Robert Mercer a martyr in the Rebellion of Ireland, A.D. 1641, when he was living A.D. 1666. Talks of another Lieut.-Colonel James Mercer, who really was afterwards Sir James Mercer of Aldie, as see *Acts of the Parliament of Scotland*, vol. vi. † After dubbing him a beggar, makes him in a position able "to pay off the debts and portions of the family;" p. 13, talks sneeringly: "after the termination of his famous lawsuit we may conclude that Colonel Mercer and 'the lad' returned to his family in Ireland," and, on the whole, shows an *animus* which we find it difficult to reconcile with the known patience of the true antiquary.

Fortunately for his family, in an unpublished MS. in Edin-

* Vice-President Society of Antiquaries, Scotland, A.D. 1860.

† A.D. 1643—1651.

burgh, which we have seen, and whence we presume Mr. Laing quotes at p. 18,

“But to my Prince at present I appeal,
And humbly hereto set my hand and seal,”

WILLIAM MERCER,

Here are the same
arms as found at
p.xvi. less the crest
and mottoes, which
are not appended.

he has left trace enough of his family which, taken in connection with charters in Scotland and England, prove all that is requisite.

N.

The following poems by members of the family of “Mercer,” with the exception of the second, are to be seen in the British Museum :—

“The Moderate Cavalier,” by Capt. Wm. Mercer. London, 1646. Grenville Collection, British Museum. The only copy known.

“Lyric Poems,” by Major James Mercer, selected and edited by his brother-in-law, Sylvester Douglas, Lord Glenbervie. London, 1806. 12mo.

“The Church Psalter and Hymn Book,” by the Rev. William Mercer, M.A., perpetual curate of St. George’s, Sheffield. Used in many churches.

“Dunfermline Abbey,” a poem, by Andrew Mercer. Dunfermline, J. Miller, 1819. Constable and Co., Edinburgh.

“Will Barton o’ the Mill,” and other poems, by George Mercer. London : Saunders, Otley, and Co., 1860.

“Mount Carmel,” a poem, by Edward Smyth Mercer. London : Whitfield, Green, and Son, 178, Strand ; Trübner and Co., 60, Pater-noster Row. Belfast : Henry Greer, High Street.

The following from the COURT CIRCULAR of Evening Standard, Nov. 19th, 1866. reached us too late for insertion in its proper place, I. S.

The hymns and psalms sung were taken from the Oxford edition of the Rev. W. Mercer’s “Hymn and Psalter Book,” which has been adopted in the Royal Chapel by Her Majesty’s command.

O.

NAMES OF A FEW FAMILIES WITH WHICH, THROUGH THE MALE AND FEMALE LINES, THE FAMILY OF MERCER HAVE BEEN CONNECTED.

<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>
<i>The Ducal House of ATHOLE.</i>	<i>The Ducal House of ATHOLE.</i>
<i>The Baronial Houses of MAYO.</i>	<i>Baronial House of DALHOUSIE.</i>
ELGIN.	SANTRY.
WATERFORD.	GLENBERVIE.
NAIRNE.	<i>Baronet Family of NIGHTINGALE.</i>
RODEN.	
KEITH.	
CAMPERDOWN.	<i>The Knightly House of MERVYN.</i>
<i>Baronet Family of BLUNT.</i>	<i>Commoners.</i>
<i>Knightly House of MACNEIL.</i>	ANSTRUTHER.
MORAY.	ARMSTRONG.
	ARTHOS.
	ATKINSON.
<i>Commoners.</i>	BAILLIE.
BOURKE.	BARRY.
BELL.	BOYD.
BIRNIE.	CHALMERS.
BISET.	COLLISON.
BOUCHIER.	CONWAY.
CASSAN.	CAULFIELD.
COLQUHOUN.	CAVALIE.
DAWSON.	CHALMERS.
DUNCAN.	DOUGLAS.
DUNDAS.	DUFF.
FITZGERALD.	FLEMING.
GIRDWOOD.	HAY.
GAYER.	HILL.
HOME.	HODGKINSON.
HAY.	HOME.
HUTCHINSON.	LAKE.
LAING.	McDOWELL.
MALCOLM.	MARSHALL.

<i>Female.</i>	<i>Male.</i>
MURDOCH.	MURRAY (3).
MUSSEN.	MILLER.
MURRAY.	ORD.
MACNEIL.	PREBBLE.
MILLER.	SLAUGHTER.
PORTER.	SINGLETON.
STEUART.	STEUART.
STEWART (3).	TAWELL.
SINGLETON.	TURNER.
SMYTHE.	WARING.
WARING.	WORTHINGTON.
WHITESIDE.	WHITESIDE.
WRIGHT.	
WOOD.	

. In any future edition, those of the Family wishing the insertion of names of kindred families will oblige by sending them to "IRISH SENNACHY," care of Hugh Mercer, Esq., Beech Park, near Lurgan, Ireland, noted in the left-hand corner below "Mercer Chronicle."

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NOTE.—One lady of this family, who has done her duty to her Queen and country, having a *lively* offspring of a dozen as promising children as ever a mother could wish, remarked, on reading over the numerous names, that "she had never heard of many of them!" "Surely, Madam," replied the listener, "you will allow the *other* Mercer ladies to emulate the mothers of the children of Judah."

